

黒の魔王

III

アルザス防衛戦

菱影代理

イラスト 森野ヒロ

FREEDOM

「魔界大戦記」テラグ

Kuro no Maou

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Author: Hishi Kage Dairi

Illustrator: Morino Hiro

Translate: [Shikkaku Translations](#) - [Entruce Translations](#)

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Chapter 11 – Meeting with a fairy

With a vibration shaking the whole body, my consciousness woke up a little from deep sleep.

“nn.....uunn.....just 5 more minutes mom....”

Is what I say but, my mom who would never allow her son to indulge in laziness would soon pull away my futon and kick me awake.

But, it has been a long time since I slept so soundly. Even if this heaven-like moment would end in the next ten seconds, till the last moment, I want to

bashan

“uuoh! Cold!?”

Due to the sudden attack of cold water on my face, my consciousness that was drifting in between dream and reality was completely brought back to the cruel reality.

“Even if I wasn’t waking up, splashing water on my face is too cruel mom—”

I soon realized that the figure of my mother was nowhere to be seen, in the first place, this isn’t even my room.

Clear blue sky, lush green trees, in the surroundings laid pieces of wood splinters and red apples, and near my legs was a white body crouching and shivering while shaking its head.

“Wh, what.....”

No wait, calm down. That’s right I sneaked into a cargo meant to cross to the Pandora continent. And that cargo was a wooden box filled with a red fruit similar to an apple. So that means the wood and the fruits around me are the remains of that box.

Also, I have no recollection of this forest. During my sleep did something happen due to which I was smashed here along with the box?

I didn't know exactly what happened but, probably an accident or something happened during transport.

But, leaving my situation behind, no matter how I think about it what I can't understand is the white body in front of me.

"Seriously, what is this.....?"

At first I thought, it was a humanoid stuffed toy or something.

A big head and small limbs, looks similar to 3-4yr old child.

But, what's weird is that this child's (assumption) body is faintly glittering, and on its small back 4 wings of light were growing out. The wings of light aren't really making me feel uncomfortable but this child is completely nude.

".....Is, is it a fairy?"

When I looked at such a figure, I could only think of that.

But, to think that I am seeing fairies now, I must be pretty damn tired.

Well I was suddenly thrown into living a daily life filled with torturous experiments; the level of despair would make anyone tired.

Wait, wait, calm down and think. This is a world filled with magic and monsters; it's not strange for fairies to exist either.

It's not strange but why is it shivering while crouching in front of me? If I keep seeing it like this I'll start feeling pity, so I should try to talk.

"Hey, are you alright?"

"!?"

Oh it just jumped in response.

"What happened, does it hurt somewhere?"

"....."

After a full 30 second silence, the fairy timidly turned her face towards me.

Literally shining platinum blonde long hair and transparent emerald green eyes. Underneath those round and cute eyes, tears can be seen.

Wha, what is this cute creature!?.....

I am definitely not a lolicon, but I can't deny that I just had love at first sight level heart beating.

"....."

Under my hot gaze, the fairy timidly stood up and quickly ran away and hid herself in the shadow of a tree. Shit, she was too cute and I ended up staring at her. Did I make her too cautious of me?

".....uu"

Did she run away, or so I thought, but from the shadow of the tree she peeked while showing only her face and asked with a small voice.

"Are you alright?"

"Huh?"

For a second I could not understand the meaning of that bell-like beautiful voice.

Isn't that my line? Why is Ms. Fairy worried for me?

"Came falling."

Huh? As I wondered what she was talking about, I realized that her gaze was indicating behind me.

As I looked back, a steep cliff was there. Did I fall from there?

"ohh."

I look at the wood splinters and apples again. The box in which I was must have fallen from the top of that steep cliff and fallen inside this forest along with me.

Then, the one who splashed water at me and woke me up was Ms. Fairy over there?

"Were you trying to help me?"

While shaking her neck she gave a deep nod.

"Is that so? Thanks. I'm fine. Not a single injury."

To be uninjured even after falling from such a height is thanks to my modified body. I'm happy I didn't cause the cute little fairy any useless worry.

“That’s good.”

Seeing her gentle smile, I realized I received kindness in this world for the first time. That’s right; there are people even in this world that may worry for me.

“Aah, really, thanks a lot—”

As I was immersed in delight, I noticed another important fact.

I was able to communicate with the fairy. I was talking as if it was natural, but isn’t that actually amazing?

“aah, umm, you can understand my words right?”

“?”

As I calmed down from her figure tilting her head to one side like a little bird, I regretted asking a weird question out of nowhere.

Considering her reactions up till now, her intelligence might also be at the same level as her appearance. Then maybe it would be better to interact with her as I would with a child.

Well, I don’t really have any experience dealing with children other than with that cheeky brat of our relatives though.

“My name is Kurono Maou, you are?”

I tried to be as gentle as possible but, normally the child would run away after seeing my villainous face at this timing. But, Ms. Fairy was a fairy after all, clearly answered me.

“.....Li, Lily.”

“Lily?”

“Yes.”

With another small nod, she hid half of her face behind the tree in embarrassment.

Every action is really cute!

“So, Lily do you know where this is?”

“This is Fairy Garden, a place where fairies live.”

A forest where fairies live, I see.

Lily helped me, so I don't think they hold any strong hostility against humans

"aaaaah!!"

"Who is it!?"

"!?"

A voice other than mine or Lily's comes from behind.

As I turned to see, a ball of light floating in the air came into my sight.

Before I realized, many other similar balls of light appeared and are flying in the surroundings.

"Why is there a human here?!"

The ball of light that previously shouted, said while coming close to my face.

On looking closely, it was a body of around 15cm and had wings similar to Lily's

"Could it be, you are a fairy?"

"Obviously! Can't you see?!"

As if I would know. I am seeing this for the first time.

But rather than rebutting her, I should get some info by talking to this fairy.

"I am--"

"This is a holy forest where we fairies live! Humans should leave immediately!!"

"Huh!?"

Before I could even name myself, I was instantly asked to get out instead.

What the hell? Aren't fairies supposed to be a race more friendly with humans? No, that might be my own impression only.

At least Lily tried to help me, and even showed bashful cute reactions too!

"Also Lily, you were here too?"

Ignoring me, it flew towards Lily.

"It's not good coming to such interior parts by yourself."

"uu.....I'm sorry."

"Along with that human, a pseudo-fairy is also not allowed to come in here. You know that right?"

I didn't know the circumstances of the Fairy Garden but I realize that Lily is being treated differently than by the other small fairies.

Without knowing anything, I don't really have any right to speak but I can't shut up and let the first person in this whole world who showed me kindness make such a sad face.

"Oi, you don't really have to put it that way, do you? Lily came to help me."

"What you really don't know anything? The fountain of light inside Fairy Garden must be approached by anyone other than fairies. That is why a human like you and a pseudo-fairy like Lily must not come this inside the forest!"

"I am certainly a human but what's this about Lily being a Pseudo-fairy? No matter how I see it, she is a fairy isn't she?"

"Don't say something so foolish. Where have you seen such a big fairy? She is a Half-human half-fairy possessing the magical energy of a fairy along with a flesh body. Neither a proper human nor a fairy, a Halfling. Seriously, something like this could be known at first glance. "

Like I said, I won't know something like that. In the first place I have no idea about the biology of this world.

But during the maneuvering experiments, there were monsters that had magical energy but didn't possess life force. Something you could only call as a ghost or spirit.

This small fairy was definitely the same. Only magical energy can be sensed though the quality is different.

Probably, fairies were made completely of magical energy.

As compared to that, I could clearly sense magical energy similar to the other fairies from Lily but could also feel a life force as well. I finally understood what this fairy was saying.

"If you understand then leave now. I'll overlook this so be thankful human."

"ku...."

The fairy's manner of speaking was a bit irritating but I had no reason to damage this 'fountain of light'. And I want to avoid quarrels with the beings of this world as well.

I should control my anger, and leave quietly as the fairy said.

But my heart really pained to see Lily's sad face on being called a pseudo-fairy.

" ah, that's right, goblins seem to have settled down in the west cave so quickly take care of that as well Lily."

"un, I understand."

"woah woah wait a minute? You're going to make Lily fight against monsters?!"

I was surprised at the fairy ordering something like that as if it was natural, though Lily accepting it so readily was also surprising.

"ughh you're irritating! It has nothing to do with an outsider stupid human like you."

"Stupid was unnecessary! Or rather, isn't it dangerous?!!"

"Monster extermination is a usual thing. Even a pseudo-fairy won't lose to low level monsters who can't even use magic."

"Is, is that so?"

As I looked towards Lily with an uneasy expression, I really can't imagine her fighting monsters. But by her way of speaking, it meant she could use magic.

If she could attack with magic, then the size of the body was unrelated to strength. Even I could defeat a dragon after all.

"if you understand then both of you hurry up and leave! How long do you intend to remain here? Do you want me to use strength?!"

The ball of light started flickering strongly. Was she trying to intimidate me?

"I get it! Fine! I'll go so don't start firing magic from behind."

And so, I and Lily left this place.

Lily enviously looked at the fairies taking the scattered apple like fruits with them deep inside the forest.

“Did you want to eat that?”

“Yes.”

It's fine. I'll bring some later.”

“!?”

I'll do it later. We'll eat together okay?”

“Th, Thank you!”

Looking at the smiling Lily, I somehow felt healed.

Chapter 12 – Fairy

A fairy is a life-form made purely out of magical energy and does not possess a flesh body.

It might sound unbelievable, but fairies are born directly with a proper ego/personality and knowledge. On top of it, they are not born from a mother but, with the magical energy of the earth and the divine protection of the fairy queen they are born similar to the blooming of a flower bud. A real life setting similar to – a stork bringing babies or babies coming from cabbage fields. Until you don't see one born in front of your own eyes, it's an unbelievable fantasy life-form.

So, these fairies can make contact with material substances, but since they don't possess an actual body they don't really have an animal's survival instincts.

Life-forms made out magical energy don't possess the 3 basic desires *i.e.* sleep, appetite, and sexual desires.

In case of fairies, even if they can sleep for resting their minds, food is absolutely unnecessary, and so neither is excretion required. On top of it, they don't have men either. They are a life-form similar to an ideal entertainment idol.

Again, they are all born in the form of a young girl and will remain the same until they disappear. Even though they are all females, the reason the species doesn't go extinct is because there is no need for reproduction. And they don't age probably because they don't really have an actual body.

For them to keep on living, what's required is an environment similar to the forest of fairies which has a dense magical energy. As long as they can replenish their magic, fairies can keep on living.

Even though they have the same level of intellect as humans, due to not having any instinctual desires, there are no disputes among them, again for the same reason they don't possess any kind of culture either. They are one the few races that have remained the same from the ancient times.

Since there is no other requirement for survival they don't have any work and

spend 24 hours talking and playing around.

From the start, fairies were a race who loves freedom and chattering it seems. Somehow they are very similar to children.

Even though they don't require it, they enjoy sleeping under the warm sun and eating delicious food as a source of pleasure.

That was why they carried away the apple-like fruits. And so, they eat, sleep, and play in rotation every day.

On listening this, I wanted to become a fairy myself but fairies are a very exclusive race. Shouting hysterically and driving me away showed that part of them.

And thus, the half-human half-fairy Lily was also affected by it. Even though she was born as a fairy she was subjected to ostracism.

“——I see it must have been hard. Shit, I fell like crying.”

“Don’t cry Kurono.”

I listened to Lily’s life story as we ate the apples (well it’s not exactly an apple but I’m going to call it that.). It really was a heart wrenching story.

I’m already emotionally attached to Lily, and Lily too has started calling me without any honorific; we are not at the level of acquaintance anymore.

That’s right, we are already friends! We should be...it would be nice if we are.

Well leaving the fact whether we are friends or not aside, we were talking about Lily.

“To have been alone from the time you were born is too damn sad.....”

Since Lily possessed a proper body she also had survival instincts that meant that she had to eat to survive. She had to sleep to remove fatigue as well. Basically she had to work to find food and also secure a place to sleep, that too within this forest all by herself.

“It’s fine. I have a proper house as well.”

The home she talks about is a small hut currently in front of us right now.

This extremely aged hut built like a log house was once used by a magician a

long time ago it seems. When that magician died, his body was carried to the graveyard by the neighbouring villagers but his house was left as is.

And when Lily was born, she was driven out of the fountain of light so she started living in this hut near the forest.

“What do you do about food?”

“I pick up fruits and mushrooms. Also, I buy bread from the village.”

“Huh? You can do shopping!? What about money?”

“I pick up medicinal herbs and make medicines out of it.”

“And you sell it in the village for earnings?”

“Yes. Only occasionally though.”

“Amazing! That’s really brilliant!”

She is able to earn her livelihood even though she is so small. Compared to a modern child like me who has to do nothing but go to school, she is certainly amazing.

“ehehe.....”

Maybe because she was embarrassed on being complimented, Lily was started squirming with her face down.

You should be more proud of yourself!

“If you’re living alone, can’t you leave this forest and live in the village?”

“No.....Fairies can only live in places which have received the divine protection of the Queen.”

I don’t know whether it was a rule or not, but still Lily didn’t want to be separated from this forest even though she was not a full fairy.

Even if there was no rule, this place is her birth place after all. I can understand the feeling of not wanting to leave this place.

“But, aren’t you being forced to do dangerous things like fighting monsters by those fairies?”

“It’s fine. I have been doing this from a long time. This is the only thing Lily can

do for them.”

“Lily wants to protect the fountain of light even though you were driven out of there?”

“Yes.”

There’s no way it wasn’t painful for her yet there was strength in her reply. I shouldn’t make anymore unnecessary conversation regarding this.

“Is that so? Then I won’t stop you. But this time I’ll do the goblin extermination in exchange.”

“Eh!? No! It’s Dangerous!?”

Lily was aware that it was dangerous for a human to fight monsters even if they were low grade monsters.

But unfortunately, wait, here I should call it fortunately right? I was no longer a normal human.

“It’s fine! Even though I look like this, I’m a magician!”

“Magician?”

Lily stared at me absentmindedly with her mouth open. Looking at my own figure reflected in those big eyes of her I realized.

“Sorry but Lily is there something I can wear? Also tell me if there is a river nearby where I can wash my body.”

My outfit is still the same plain white clothes given to me in that facility. On top of that it has 8 big holes I got during by fight with Sariel. Also, after escaping, I crossed the mountains for 3 days in the same outfit. It had become dirty as well as worn-out. Similarly, I haven’t washed my body for that many days as well. Although I might not realize it myself, but my body definitely smells bad....

No matter how I look at it, I look like a vagrant with a bad nature. I don’t look like a magician from any angle.

“Umm, River is that way, as for clothes.....”

“No, it’s fine if you don’t have any. For the time being I’ll first go and wash—wait, maybe I should first kill off those goblins, it feels like I’ll get dirty again.”

“You’re going to go now?”

“Yeah, I’ll wash my clothes after returning. Well then, Lily, guide me to this west cave where the goblins are.”

“ye, yes.”

Maybe because she is still worried, she is making a troubled face.

“It’s fine! Just leave it to me. If it gets dangerous I’ll run. I have some confidence in running away.”

After all, I was able to run away from that crazy evil experiment facility after facing that monster class albino girl. An encirclement of goblins is nothing.

“un, follow me!”

Led by my enthusiasm (?), lily began guiding me there.

All right! I’ll show my strong point to the first person who showed me kindness!

I braced myself and started following Lily.

Chapter 13 – Goblin Extermination (1)

“——there.”

While hiding in the shade of a tree, Lily pointed towards a part on the rocky cliff.

“ooh, there are definitely goblins there.”

The main entrance seemed to be a cave of around 3m and around it were three more small entrances of about 1m. Neither of them is very big, but for goblins who are at most 1m in height, it is sufficient.

The goblins here seem to be the same type as the ones I faced during the maneuvering experiments.

The ones at that time were equipped with sturdy armour and sharp blades but the ones here are wearing just old rags and are equipped with what looks like weak handmade weapons.

The level of equipment was definitely low, but they seemed to be more than used to these weapons.

“I’m confirming this just in case but, it’s fine to kill all of them right?”

I had long lost any hesitation in killing living things including humans, but I didn’t feel like showing Lily a blood-filled scenery either.

Although I doubt Lily would have any reluctance towards killing considering she has been doing this for a long time, but still I decided to ask just in case.

If she got scared due to me over-killing the goblins, I would be pretty sad.

“Yes, if you leave even one goblin then another 30 would come, so you must properly exterminate them all.”

“Is, is that so? I see.”

I felt a really big gap seeing her say things like [extermination] as if they were cockroaches. (T/N: I think here Kurono is talking about Gap Moe probably. Google gap moe if you don’t know what it is.)

Is the pure cruelty special to only children, I wonder?

Well whatever. That's one thing out of my mind at least. As asked, I'll leave not a single one alive.

"All right. Well then I'm off!"

Without really trying to hide myself, I directly move towards the cave.

"—Load."

This technique of creating multiple bullets before the start of battle so that I can fire consecutively was developed while I was crammed in that box while crossing to the Pandora continent. I had lots of free time after all.

The amount of bullets I can stock isn't very big, but for now being able to concentrate 3 times my usual firepower on the first turn is enough.

"Blackening."

I use it on the 1m long 4 wooden branches that I collected while coming here. I had carrying it underneath my armpits till now, now I can control them without touching them. I make the 4 black sticks stay behind me.

"—alright."

As I stand on top of a large boulder, I can clearly see the entrance of the cave. From here, I won't miss any goblins either.

Roughly, 20 goblins can be seen out of which around 13 of them are armed. There are probably more of them hiding in the cave. And as I saw the goblins, at the same time the goblins near the entrance were also able to clearly see me.

Not wanting to welcome the human who suddenly appeared, the faces of those goblins that looked like a mix of frog and monkey quickly distorted and looked at me with hostility.

"gyoaahhhh!!"

I don't know whether it was a signal for its companions or just a war cry but with the shout the goblin entered a fighting stance.

"That's right! Come at me---wait Lily!? Why are you here?!"

"?"

The moment I was about to fire my magic, I became aware of the white shadow flickering near my legs. I was sure she was in the forest waiting patiently, so why is she so nonchalantly coming to the front lines!?

But, now I can't just run away while holding Lily either.

Lily has some experience in fighting monsters so it's probably unnecessary to worry about her.

Aaagh! I'm still extremely worried!!

"Lily don't leave my side. It's dangerous!"

"Ok."

Did she get understand or not? Lily looks at me with a puzzled face.

I'm seriously worried but I don't have time worry about it for now.

"Alright, let's go!!"

Once again motivating myself, I face the goblins. Out of the 13 armed ones, 2 were equipped with bows. Maybe due to the noise, 4 more goblins with bows and 10 others also jumped out of the cave. The rest, all equipped with spears and swords, charge towards me.

"Rifle."

First I'll take out the long ranged ones. Before the six bow users could release even a single arrow, the fake full metal jacket bullets pierce through their heads.

Since I had them loaded in advance, I could fire all of them at the same time rather than one by one.

"Buckshot."

The next aim was towards the ones charging straight towards me.

I had defeated the bow users in the time required for a single shot so the attack group had not yet reached close enough to me. That distance was approximately 10 meters. Perfect to finish with Buckshot.

The already loaded 4 buckshot were fired and immediately covered the whole area in front of me in the form of a barrage. Having neither shields nor the time to evade, it pierced through the bodies of the goblins.

The goblins in the front were completely annihilated on a level that it was impossible to know which of the bullets had been the fatal one. There were even some whose thin arms and legs had been blown away.

“gih, gieaaha!!”

Goblins who had avoided a fatal blow due to their companions becoming a shield for them raised a cry of anger and anguish and continued to charge towards me. Behind them were the ones who still unhurt, and again, more reinforcements appeared from the cave.

It seems they won’t retreat with just this, or maybe they don’t possess the intelligence to plan a retreat; either way, if they are coming then it’ll only help me save time so I’m glad actually.

“Gatling.”

Sticking out my right hand, I start using Gatling for sweeping fire.

Gatling automatically does the process of firing bullets so I am able to focus solely on creating bullets. This results in rapid firing faster than rifle.

But, using my right hand as a barrel, I can only fire in a straight direction from it with some slight aiming only. Thus it is effective against groups charging straight from the front. The opponent will indirectly get inside my range after all.

And so, without any means to defend against or avoid the bullets on the same level as Rifle, the goblins charging here one by one turned to minced meat.

This was not a battle but looked more like a one-sided massacre.

Nevertheless, the goblins kept on charging inside the kill zone of the black bullets.

Due to dead bodies of their companions slowing them down and my bullets flying all over, the distance between me and the goblins remained the same. When I thought that it was about time that I started moving towards the cave as well, it was at that moment.

“uoooooh!!!”

A load roar shook the surroundings. While firing the Gatling, I looked towards the source of that roar.

It was probably a part of the reinforcements coming out of the cave and had no difference in looks compared to other goblins. But the big hatchet held in its hand strangely stood out.

The goblins here mainly used handmade bows and spears which was definitely poor. Occasionally, there were some who held swords but those were also chipped and rusted without any signs of proper maintenance.

But that big hatchet alone still held sharpness and was releasing a shine even an amateur could see.

What it released was not just shine but also a darkish aura similar to my black magical energy.

The moment I thought that a troublesome one appeared, the goblin with the hatchet suddenly attacked its companions beside him with its weapon. With a short death cry, the neck of that goblin fell, clearly as if butter had been sliced with a knife.

“Oioi, that really is a dangerous guy.”

Even goblins noticed the abnormality and stopped their charge to look towards him.

In that short moment, the goblins near it one by one fell under the attack of that big hatchet and had their heads cut off.

“Kurono, that’s a cursed weapon! It’s dangerous!”

“Cursed weapon?”

Now that I remember, during the Maneuvering experiments, there were strange weapons which raised strength or allowed the use of magic without actually learning them, just by holding that weapon. Similar to how I used blackening on weapons, I thought weapons could also be attached with various magical effects.

But, there may be times when the magic attached may not always be a merit for the user as well. That must be the so called [Cursed Weapon].

Attacking all without discrimination of ally or enemy, it’s quite a simple to understand curse.

As I somewhat carelessly thought, I shot my Rifle towards the Goblin still swinging around that hatchet.

I had stopped Gatling, so the aim was perfect, and pierced through the head brilliantly, or that was how it was supposed to be.

“guauu!!”

With a slight swing, the bullet was deflected by the hatchet.

“Are you kidding me? What kind of reaction speed is that!?”

With its eyes completely gone white, the already ugly face became worse and turned to look towards me.

Ah, this is, it's completely aiming for me now.

On top of it, its breathing became wilder than the time it appeared, it's drooling continuously, and its white eyes are now starting to become bloodshot. Did my single shot irritate it that much; the goblin's anger was clearly heating up.

This might be a little troublesome opponent.....

Chapter 14 – Goblin Extermination (2)

“Kurono!”

“Lily, it’s dangerous so get back a little.”

Goblins were already an agile race like monkeys but that one jumped threateningly towards me surpassing it.

“Rifle!”

I rapid-fired my Rifle towards the goblin in the air but with unnatural movements it deflected most of them with that big hatchet.

Even though some hit its body, as if it didn’t feel pain, it kept on swinging the hatchet with unchanged speed.

This is the type that’ll keep on coming until I completely destroy it. The distance between me and the landed goblin was about 3 meters.

Now that it was in front of me, I could clearly sense an ominous energy what could only be described as the [curse].

“Automatic Fencing”

To block the approaching enemy I controlled the blackened sticks that were behind me. If my opponent was a normal weapon I could have blocked it with just these wooden sticks.

“gyoaah!!!”

In front of the cursed hatched, they were easily split in two.

The 4 sticks were somehow able to attack the goblin but it didn’t seem like it was taking any damage. While it was fighting with the sticks, I fired Rifle towards it but with superhuman reactions it either deflected or evaded it. In 10 seconds it had cut the sticks apart and then rushed towards me in a straight line.

“Kuh, shield!!”

The deployed shield somehow prevented my head from being split apart like a bamboo.

Even my strongest shield that wouldn't crack with my own Anti-material attack was cut till halfway. This will definitely break in the next attack.

"Buckshot."

But, I'm not going to let that happen.

Taking my Buckshot at close range, the goblin was blown away. Many bullets should have pierced through him but maybe due to the weapon strengthening the body as well; it was still in good health.

In mid air, it fixed its posture like a cat, and the blood stained goblin lightly landed on the ground.

The moment it took a step towards me to try and cut me again, the pieces of the broken black stick started coiling around its leg.

"gii!?"

It must have thought that the sticks have become useless after being cut apart, but Automatic Fencing won't be stopped just by being split into 2 or 3 pieces.

It didn't really have any effect against Sariel, but against the goblin corrupted by the weapon, it was effective.

With its leg caught, the goblin fell face first but it still didn't let go of the weapon in its hand.

"Anti-material."

Up till now the goblin had been jumping around, but due to it falling, I could precisely aim this time. And in that position it was impossible to swing that hatchet either, even a cursed weapon could not ignore the structure of its body. The fired bullet pierced through its strengthened arm and blew it away completely. The hand along with the weapon fell to the ground.

"Rifle."

At the same moment, the Rifle fired hit directly at its forehead and blood and brains burst out.

"phew, man close-combat really is scary....."

Without a user, the cursed weapon could no longer show its effects.

Wait, it won't fly by itself and try cutting me right? Is what I thought, but the blackish aura coming from that hatchet seems to have finally calmed down.

"For the time being I should recover it."

I don't want to fight another goblin who picked it up and went mad again.

"Kurono stop! It's dangerous!"

Lily who was standing quietly behind me as I asked raised her voice when she saw me coming close to the hatchet. Well, I am trying to touch a cursed weapon, it's normal to try and stop me.

"aa, it'll probably be fine Lily.

I without any hesitation touched the handle, at that moment.

--hate---kill----love----die---

"ooh, well this is a nostalgic feeling...."

It was similar to thoughts being forcefully put in my mind as done by the ring of restraint. The thoughts of love and hate entered my mind giving me a chill.

"You're being noisy, be quiet!--Blackening!!"

Similar to when the goblin held it, blackish aura started to come out of the hatchet but my much darker magical energy overcame it.

AS I thought, this big hatchet has black magical energy inside of it similar to mine but the quantity inside me is far above it.

I don't know what kind of malice it possesses but against an overwhelming difference of magical energy, it won't be able to make me go mad and control me as the goblin. Basically, my compatibility with the hatchet was good.

"Ku, Kurono?"

"See, I told you it'll be fine."

Hahahaha while laughing I played and swung it around my hand like a pen.

I didn't have such technique in me but due to probably the effect of coming in contact with the weapon, I felt as if the weapon was like a part of me and use it

with maximum skill.

“The curse?”

“Hmm, I can’t hear the hateful voices anymore. But, Lily shouldn’t touch it. The only reason I can is because my compatibility was high.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes.”

“I see.”

With the cursed hatchet in my hand, after making sure that I showed no change in presence, Lily finally showed a smile. But, isn’t this scene of us smiling like this while surrounded by a mountain of goblin corpses a bit too surreal?

“Oh I almost forgot! There were goblins remaining.”

Before I realized, the goblins that hadn’t lost their fighting spirit were slowly surrounding me.

It seems they have finally become a bit more vigilant, they have shifted their strategy to slowly close the distance while moving on all sides. I can easily fight without any problems but it’ll be dangerous to let Lily also become surrounded along with me.

“Lily, quickly—”

Move back, as I tried to say that, I heard the sound of something flying towards us.

Shit, they fired a bow.

As I looked up, numerous arrows were coming down towards us as if raining.

Will I be able to deflect them all with buckshot? Even if not, then with the help of the hatchet I will be able to defend my own body mostly.

In any case, due to the shield being partially destroyed previously I won’t be able to reconstruct the shield in time.

For now, I should hold Lily and protect her from—

“nn!!”

“Huh?”

The moment I thought of holding Lily who was standing on the ground, I realized she was already on my shoulder. Sticking both her hands towards the front, with a “nn” Lily sound closed her eyes and groaned.

“eee!!!”

With Lily’s cute shout, her faintly glittering white body started shining more strongly than ever.

“Uooh, too bright!?”

The next moment, numerous beams of light were released from Lily’s hands.

“What? It’s a beam!? Is that a beam!?”

The numerous beams of light released by Lily flew towards the incoming arrows while leaving a trail behind it. With a speed much faster than the arrows, one beam of Lily’s light destroyed multiple arrows.

“Could it be that it’s automatically tracking them?”

Moreover, the targets are arrows which are pretty fast too.

As I muttered that, the rain of arrows had been completely destroyed in mid-air. The light that had counter-attacked had also disappeared.

“.....amazing.”

It’s a highly efficient magic that makes my Rifle or buckshot look like toys. Amazing, can fairies all use such level of magic? Then it makes sense that goblins won’t be much of an opponent.

“ehehe”

Receiving my respectful gaze, Lily became shy while sitting on my shoulder. Her face is close, her cuteness is also 3 times greater!

“ha!”

I can’t calm down just yet; I’m still in a battle. The goblins have come close enough to be able to slash at me after one step.

“I’ll have to also show my cool part it seems.”

I gently lowered Lily back to the ground. Holding the hatchet in my right hand, I start loading in my left hand.

"Lily, I won't let the spear users come any closer but they might shoot the arrows again so can I leave that to you?"

I have no reason to doubt Lily's abilities any longer and at this point it would be better to cooperate as well.

"Leave it to me!"

While raising her thin eyebrows, Lily's face is filled with confidence.

"Alright! Then I leave it to you!"

At the same time, I start running towards the goblins in front of me.

Since my basis for black magic was a gun, my usual strategy was to fight from long range but that doesn't mean that I cannot fight at close quarters.

To allow me to fight from long range at all times, those maneuvering experiments were not that easy. Well, fighting in close range with an opponent so much that my body was drenched with blood was still scary no matter though.

"—Buckshot!"

I deal with the goblins in front of me with buckshot. Each of them held spear, knife, and a rusted sword. First I pick up the rusted sword.

"Blackening---Automatic Fencing."

I control the blackened sword and throw it. In the same way I did the same with the knife then the spear as well.

"Pierce through."

The blackened 3 weapons turned around and launched towards the goblins approaching towards my back.

Meanwhile, without even turning around, I slash apart the 2 goblins that came at me from the front.

"oooh, what amazing sharpness!"

The weapon in goblin's hand, the leather armor, flesh and bone, all were cut apart without any resistance at all. This might even cut an iron plate like paper. Due to blackening, its power must have risen as well, but I have never seen any weapon with such an amazing cutting ability. Cursed weapons are pretty amazing!

"deyaa!"

I split apart the incoming goblins into two one by one with the big hatchet. I had absolutely no knowledge of using swords but due to my body strengthening and the technique knowledge of the hatchet itself, I became able of using the magnificent sword dance as done by the samurai shown in historical plays.

"dodon!!"

Behind me, along with this beautiful scene of carnage, a unexpected extremely cute scream could be heard. Probably, Lily just used magic. At the same time as the head of the goblin in front of me flew, the scene of the goblin archers deployed around the entrance of the cave being enveloped by a pillar of light came into my view. Seriously, Lily's fairy magic is amazing. Will I also be someday become able to shoot beams?

"—You're the last one!"

After splitting it from head to toe, the goblins around me had all been annihilated.

In my surroundings lay an innumerable amount of goblin corpses.

Every corpse lacked a hand, leg, head or some other part of the body. As such the amount blood was also amazing. The whole ground had turned into a hellish pool of blood and I myself was also drenched in blood as well.

The originally white clothes had already had already become blackish due to dirt. With the blood it had now become darkish brown, an even worse coloring than before.

Thinking that I matched with this place of massacre, my own thoughts may have become a bit twisted, but seeing Lily come towards even the current me with full of smiles, well I thought that it might not be that bad.

“Thanks for taking care of the archers for me.”

“I worked hard!”

“aa, it was one-shot kill too! Lily’s really amazing!”

“ehehe”

Lily seemed proud yet embarrassed.

“Well then, it’s done more or less. There should be more of them inside the cave right? What should we do? Should we take care of it now as well?”

“No, it’s fine already.”

“Is that so?”

“Yup—“

And then, Lily shined for the third time today. The same pillar of light that purged the archers appeared near the entrance of the cave and just like that shot at the cliff itself.

I didn’t know how much power that pillar had but, the slope of the cliff exploded and started burying the entrance to the cave with a crash.

The goblins that had been inside the cave started coming out due to panic but were crushed by the falling rocks and buried there and then.

“.....waa.”

As the landslide stopped, the entrance to the cave had been blocked and the goblins that might have been there had been buried alive. With a single shot, the extermination was complete.

“Let’s go back, Kurono.”

I was in a bit of a daze but came back to my senses when Lily pulled my cuff.

“Ye, Yeah, that’s right, let’s go back.”

“Yup.”

Looking at that small back walking through the forest in a good mood, I swore in my heart to never ever anger Lily no matter what.

Chapter 15 – Cleansing of Heart and Body

Near Lily's hut, there was small stream that was extremely clear maybe due to the fact that came from the fountain of light.

Having become even dirtier after finishing the goblin extermination, I decided to directly come here.

Obviously I had no soap and only cold water was available for washing the clothes, but I felt as if I had washed both my mind and body and had become more refreshed than ever before.

Although, the clothes soaked in blood had no way of returning to same level of whiteness as before.

“During that time I had no way to wash it properly after all.”

Even in the facility, I was allowed to wash my body somewhat.

Or rather, I was thrown into a room smaller than the stalls in a public toilet and was washed through water jet streams blowing out from the walls along with my clothes. It felt more like being thrown inside a washing machine. I actually did almost drown a few times as well.

So now I am satisfied with just being able to wash myself at my once pace with clean water.

But still, I'm currently completely nude in the middle of a forest. I feel like pervert.....it's fine, after all the fairy Lily is also always like that too.

Well, a fairy who looked like a cute little girl and a guy of over 180cm height, even if both are nude, it's completely different after all.

Well leaving that aside, now that I think about it, does this world even have proper baths? As I thought that I sat on a convenient rock and began to eat another apple.

“un, it's delicious.”

The first thing I ate after escaping that facility is this fruit which I have nicknamed as apple. The water of the river was also delicious but this fresh sour

yet sweet flavour having red fruit is on a completely different level.

Due to it being so delicious, it took me 5 fruits to realize that the taste was slightly different from a normal apple. The box I sneaked in was luckily filled with lots of these fruits so I had no need to be worried about the quantity either.

While inside the box, I would either sleep or eat these apples, and inside my mind I'll focus on developing my magic. One of the magic I developed was [gatling]. After that, I fell into a deep sleep due to which I have no memory of being unloaded at the port of Pandora continent and then being transported through the land. While crossing that cliff, the carriage must have unluckily dropped this box down the cliff.

Actually, even if that carriage was actually attacked by goblins or something it was of no concern to me anymore, so it's useless to think about it anymore as well.

“But it’s good that I learnt how to use [Shadow space].”

After eating the apple, I throw the central part that was left. The remains disappeared after being sucked into the shadow extending from me.

[Shadow Space] was a magic that created a room/space inside my own shadow. Of course, I named it myself and I don't know what its official name was. While fighting with the other human experiments, I saw many of them use this. At first “He brought out a sword out of nowhere!?” was all I could think, but after seeing it many times I finally realized the true identity of that magic.

By using your own shadow as a door, weapons or items can be stored inside it. Without having a fundamental image, I worked hard to get that 4th dimensional pocket likeability. (T/N: Reference to Doraemon.)

As a result, with an [image of gathering black magical energy inside my own shadow], I was successful up to some extent in creating a space inside my shadow.

The space was of about 2 meter in radius but others have obviously been able to store bigger objects so it seems I am still at an elementary level.

When I master this magic, I really might be able to create a 4th dimensional pocket. Leaving that aside, without feeling any weight I can carry anything

anywhere. Once the space is built (that took an insane amount of magic), no magic is required for maintaining it. Open and closing the space does require a little amount of magic but still this is a very convenient magic.

Even now, 24 apples are still stored inside my shadow. Even if I give Lily half of it, there is still 12 of them for me.

And the biggest loot from the goblin extermination, the cursed hatchet, is also stored inside. A weapon with that much strength should be rare even in this world. I think I have been charmed by its cutting ability.

Ah, I'm not being charmed due to the effect of the curse of the weapon right?

Well whatever. I also have other knives, swords blackened and stored inside as well. It's not worth more than trash but even if rusted, they are at least actual weapons. The attack power would be more than wooden branches after all.

I don't really have anything else to keep anyway. Also, the remains of the apple that I threw inside are disintegrated by my magic and absorbed inside the shadow. This is also something I copied from another human experiment.

During battle, that guy caught my blackened sword with his magic and instantly disintegrated and absorbed it to add it to his own attack power.

At my current level, the disintegration and absorption process is slow. On top of it, my efficiency is so bad that the magical energy used in the process is more than the magical energy gained. It seems it is still impossible for me to absorb magic without any loss like that human experiment. If I could do that, I would have been able to absorb that rain of arrows, use blackening on it, and return fire with them instantly. In any case, it is still impossible for me.

But even if I am unable to use it in battle, it's convenient like this for throwing away trash. Even that guy wouldn't think of such an ecological use of this ability.

".....Sorry, for escaping alone."

I should stop this. I am not strong enough to take care of other's well being and neither do I have the time for it.

Just being able to defeat numerous goblins is not a strength I can be proud of.

People stronger than me, like that Sariel, must exist as well.

In the end, being able to run away by myself was the best I could do. I didn't even think of trying to save other experiments with me.

"It's about time I return back to Lily's place."

Stopping my useless thoughts, I left the stream thinking about whether my body and clothes could also be dried through magic.

Chapter 16 – First Friend

“I’m coming in.”

“Please do!”

As I opened the door to the hut, Lily greeted me with a smile. With just that, I felt healed. But I’m currently wearing nothing but wet underpants; it’s not the time to be lost in thoughts.

“Kurono, take this.”

“Hm?”

Lily gave me a rectangular piece of soft cloth. Is this a towel?

“Is it fine to use it?”

“Yes.”

“Thanks.”

For now, with this I didn’t have any need to wear those wet underpants till they dried. Wrapping the towel around my waist, I took off my pants and hung it beside the rest of my clothes on the branch of a tree outside. Frying my head with the towel, I thought.

“Well, first I should get some clothes from somewhere.”

Lily doesn’t wear anything, she won’t know much about it anyway. If I go to the village where she sells the medicines, I should be able to get some clothes for myself.

“Say Lily, does the nearby village have any shops selling clothes? If there are, how many are there?”

“?”

She looks at me blankly. Was it too much to ask two questions at the same time?

“Well, I think the second hand shop was selling some.”

“Huh what do they sell usually?”

“Well anything! I don’t know about clothes but they did have armour!”

“Even armour? Wow, they really do sell anything.”

I thought it might have been something like a convenience store, but this is a world where monsters are a daily occurrence. Weapons are more important here than in my world. Even villages have shops dealing in them it seems.

“Kurono, come in!”

“ah, it’s weird to talk while standing at the entrance after all. Then I’ll accept your offer and come in.”

Well this is a western style house so there is no space for removing shoes before entering the house. I have never gone abroad, but never did I think that my first experience of moving with shoes in someone’s house would be in a different world.

Just in case, I wiped the dirt off my feet and then stepped inside. Lily is also walking inside the house with bare feet.

For Lily who barely came up to my knee, this must feel like a huge house but for me who had grown into a uselessly big body, it still felt a bit cramped.

The house itself feels pretty big but, due to huge bookshelves lined beside each other along with boxes and mysterious sacks lying around, I felt a little oppressed.

The bed and the small table were the only things that made it feel that someone lived here. Even though only Lily lives here, there seem to be a lot of useless things. Although, it might be too much for her to remove those big bookshelves by herself.

“Come sit!”

As I was looking around the house, Lily called out to me.

Lily had jumped upon her bed and was patting the white mattress with both her hands. Since there seems to be no chairs, certainly that is the only place to sit.

As I sat down on the bed, I was instantly entranced by the fluffy sensation of the mattress. Since I had been sleeping on nothing but the hard floor up till now, this softness was an extreme luxury.

As I was immersed in that,

“I’ll go make some tea!”

I was about to ask her not to trouble herself, but as soon as her motivated glittering figure came into my view,

“Thanks.”

That was all I could say in the end.

I had already taken her towel. If I keep sitting here I feel that my debt towards Lily would keep on accelerating starting with that tea. Sorry Lily, at this time I only have my body and my black magic with me but one day I’ll return this favour to you tenfold! I promise!

As I strongly swore this inside my heart, I looked towards Lily.

“fuuuu!!!”

Lily was breathing fire.

Are you a dragon!? I almost stood up and tsukkomi-ed. Calm down, it’s just magic.

As I said, Lily was currently blowing out fire towards the big kettle (?) from that small mouth of hers. There were many who could use fire type magic, but this is my first time seeing a humanoid person breathing fire literally. Is that also fairy magic?

I had many doubts, but looking at Lily working so hard just to make tea, I was unable to call out to her.

I’ll just quietly wait here—

“It’s done!!”

With that voice, I was pulled back to reality from the shallow sleep called thinking.

On the table stood Lily with a daunting pose, and beside her a teapot and cup

giving off a sweet fragrance were lined up.

“oo, Thanks a lot!”

I was bit worried whether Lily who looked like a small child would be able to make tea properly, but it seems my worries were useless.

The cup was filled with Black tea? It should be something close to it going by its colour.

“Drink, Kurono!”

I received a gaze full of expectation from Lily—

“Ou, Itadakimasu—“

As I reached towards the cup, I suddenly realized.

“Huh? Where’s Lily’s share?”

On the table, beside the cup, there was only the teapot. Did she forget about herself, the owner?

“There is only one.”

“Eh, what?”

“Cup.”

“Is that so? Why—“

Could it be that she had no money? If that was so, I regretted that I ended up asking something so stupid.

“Because nobody ever comes. But Kurono came, for the first time ever. Lily is very happy.” (T/L: Lily talks in third person. Instead of ‘I’ she uses her own name.)

I regretted even more now. I see, so this is what it means to be expelled from the fountain of light.

If she lived in the village it wouldn’t have been like this, but since she is a fairy, she didn’t want to leave the forest either.

That is why, if she had not been expelled, then like a normal fairy, she could have had fun everyday with her friends. She would have been able to live without

any sadness or pain—but this isn’t what I’m supposed to say right now.

Accepting the fact that she was expelled and also living here rather than in the village, was both done by Lily herself. I have no right to deny it.

“That means I am the first friend to have ever been invited to your house? I’m honoured.”

“Friend?”

“Yeah. After all we fought against the goblin army together entrusting our backs to each other. We are already more than just some normal friends!”

That is why I will become the first person to give a helping hand to Lily who had always been alone till now. In this different world, I may be ignorant and lacking commonsense, I am not even that strong. Still I can at least fight monsters.

“Yeah, Lily is Kurono’s friend!”

This day I saw Lily’s best smile. But in this world full with nothing but my enemies, I was the one who was actually happier to have finally gotten my first friend.

That’s right, just by meeting her, I felt glad to have come here.

Chapter 17 – Black Magician Kurono

The next day, I woke up at sunrise.

After coming to this different world, I woke up feeling refreshed for the first time. A bed is definitely a great thing. On the fluffy bed I lay completely naked except for the towel around my waist along with Lily who was nude from the very start.

Huh? Hearing up till this point, doesn't it sound like a suspicious situation?

It's alright. I didn't do anything to feel guilty about. That's because I am a gentleman. YES for Lolita but NO touching. I really am not a lolicon, seriously. Lily asked me to stay at the hut so I decided to accept her kind offer. Maybe because she was an extremely soft hearted person, Lily didn't seem to mind me completely depending on her.

Of course, I have no intention to only be on the receiving side. I have already resolved to return this favour definitely. But, is it fine to give so much to a man who has barely anything? What if I was just some parasitic bastard?

Oh no, am I getting conceited thinking I that must protect this angel, no, this fairy? It's fine. I am going to stay with Lily treating her with gratitude and honour.

"Well then, time to change into my clothes."

Without waking Lily who was still sleeping, I got off the bed and left the hut.

"un, it's a bit better I guess....."

Bur I can't say it's up to my expectations.

Although I knew while washing, the clothes that had become dark brownish colour due to dirt and blood, has become lighter but it's nowhere near its original whiteness.

Basically it's still dirty. It even has holes to top it off. If I went around wearing that in my previous world, I would have been reported instantly.

"It's not like I have any choice though....."

I had planned to go to the nearby village today, but I would at least need some clothes to get there.

Lily doesn't care whether I am in just under pants or just a towel, but that's an exception among exceptions.

The people of this world wear normal clothes. I saw that at the port town. As such, I will also have to wear at least something. Though, I feel that wearing nothing might be better than wearing this.

But no matter how much I complain the clothes won't get cleaner. Reluctantly, I wear the ragged robe-like clothes I had become used to wear.

"Now then, how should I get some clothes—“

While enjoying the gentle breeze blowing in the morning, I sat down on one of the boxes kept behind the hut and thought while taking Rodin's pose. (T/L: he is referencing Auguste Rodin who made the sculpture The Thinker.)

As I sat and thought in an artistic pose,

"Ah, Kurono, Good Morning."

Lily came.

"Yeah, Good Morning."

I'll keep it a secret that I was almost about to say [good morning, princess].

"What are you doing sitting on the treasure box?"

"Treasure box?"

Wasn't this just another box?

Getting up, I examined the box closely. I see, it does have a keyhole.

"What's inside it?"

"Don't know."

As I saw Lily tilt her head in doubt, I became a bit excited inside.

"Doesn't a mysterious treasure box sound interesting? On top of it, the owner was a magician. To think something like this would happen in reality, this really is a magic world!"

Everything in this, except for the few things of Lily, all belonged to the magician who had once lived here.

“Are you going to open it!?”

“Yeah, doesn’t it make you curious? Ah, is it bad to open it?”

“Open it!!”

Lily suddenly looked at me with a gaze full of expectations. Being looked at like that by Lily, I was suddenly filled with motivation.

“Alright! Leave it to me!”

Full of motivation, I faced the magical mysterious box.

No matter how you look at it, it’s made of wood. It would be easy to just destroy it but at times like these you should act smart. I think it should be better to destroy just the part with the keyhole.

“fuun!!”

So, I first try to open it with just physical strength. This box is like those that appear in RPGs, the ones that open upwards. As such, there isn’t any place to put my hands at but with my current strength——

“tsk!?”

The moment I put some strength, an electric current ran through the place I was touching. Reflexively, I pulled back my hand but the damage done is not very big.

“Trap, no, it seems to be protected by magic.”

“Kurono, are you alright?”

“Aah, it’s not strong enough to cause damage. But as expected of a magicians treasure box huh?”

If it is protected that strongly, means it contains a treasure better than I had imagined.

My 1st hope = lots of gold and silver. 2nd hope = strong magic item. 3rd hope = clothes (male size XL).

"Could it be a mimic?—“ (T/L: reference to a D&D monster)

As I unintentionally muttered, I suddenly had a bad premonition.

"Say Lily, It won't be containing some dangerous never to be released monster right?"

"It doesn't contain any monster."

"I'll ask once more, its fine to open it, right?"

"Open it!!"

Again those sparkling eyes filled with expectations. I can't leave this for later now. Well, even I didn't feel like leaving it just because of getting a bit scared.

"If it's protected by magic then I'll use magic too—Blackening!"

Touching the box with both hands, I release the black magical energy at full strength.

Up till now I have only used it on weapons, cylindrical bars *etc.* but if blackening is successful, it will definitely cancel the electric shock like damage.

I can control without touching, throw it *etc.* with the help of blackening but I don't know whether I'll be able to do something like opening a lock since I have never controlled anything which had a 'mechanism' of a key lock.

"Alright, Blackening was successful—but I can't manipulate the lock."

I didn't understand the structure of the lock or maybe the image is not sufficient, in any case I understood that I am unable to control the lock and open it.

"The, I'll have to directly tamper with it."

Since the electrical trap was not there anymore, I could try using physical strength again but it doesn't look like it'll be successful since the box seems to be strengthened above normal.

So I'll use the only recovery (?) type magic I possess. The one which converts my black magical energy into jelly-like substance to close wounds.

Using the same thing, I'll pour magical energy inside the lock, harden it there, and then turn it.

I am not informed about the structure of a lock, but I can't just harden everything inside. I'll search for the responsive part while delicately controlling my magic--

"How does it look?"

Since I was clattering for a while, Lily asked anxiously.

"Yeah, a little bit more and—ohh!!"

I got a response! At the same time, with a *kachiri* sound, the box unlocked successfully.

""It opened!!""

Our voices perfectly overlapped, no well, in this situation it's kind of obvious to say the same thing.

"Alright! Open it Lily!"

"yeah!"

The two of us open it with feelings full of excitement.

"Th, this is!?"

Is what I say, but I couldn't exactly understand what it was at a single glance. That's because, it was just a black piece of cloth wrapping something up.

Well, I'm glad it's not a mimic at least.

"What is this?"

"I wonder."

For the time being, I pulled out the black cloth. It was a pretty thick and well made cloth, pretty big, and above all, a slight magical energy could be felt from it.

"This is.....Could it be that this is a magician's robe!?"

As I spread it, I realized this is definitely a robe. And it's completely black in colour. Even someone with no prior knowledge would come to the same conclusion that this was a magician's robe.

"Kurono, try wearing it!"

“oh, is it fine, oh well I might as well wear it!”

It's my long awaited proper clothes. On top of it, knowing that it's a magician's robe increased my tension as well.

As I wore it, the length was perfect as if it was measured in advance. And it felt excellent as well. Although it was quite thick, surprisingly it didn't feel sultry. The magical energy wrapping the whole body was also comfortable probably because it was the same black magical energy.

“So? How does it look?”

“Yeah! It looks cool Kurono!”

“hahahaha this is embarrassing. But with this I could call myself a real magician now, right?”

I can't fly with a broom, but I can definitely use real magic.

“Yeah! Kurono is a magician!”

“Is that so? Since Lily has said so, from now on I am a magician, no, a black magician!”

Maybe I got too caught up in the moment, but still, I decided to name myself as black magician from here onwards.

Chapter 18 – To the Village of Irz (1)

The treasure box not only contained the robe but also contained a baton and a knife as well. They must have been the favourites of the magician as all of them were first-class items it seems.

During the experiments, I had also faced an orthodox magician wearing a robe and equipped with a baton as well.

The robe had the effect of defending against magic. Maybe because I had also used the baton after stealing it during the battle which had the effect of enhancing the magic or had a complete magic hidden inside it, I could somewhat compare the quality with the one in my hand right now.

Obviously, after the battle ended, the masked men confiscated the items from me.

Leaving that bitter memory aside, I realized that this robe was of a better quality than the others on touching it. The baton seems to be built with using black magic as a premise, so even I should be able to use it well.

The knife is probably a magic weapon. Whether it had a trick or spell behind it, I didn't know how to use it. I'll need to examine it more thoroughly later. As for the baton, well, not everyone can use the staff or book of a magician even if the other person is also a magician. Every magician has a different speciality like fire or water, so the element should also be compatible.

By the way, mine is black magic and Sariel had white magic but fire, water, wind, lightning element magicians have their magical energy of colours red, blue etc. respectively. These together are called the primary magical energies.

I knew this as a fact as some basic knowledge regarding magic was present faintly inside my head. Probably this was also an effect of the various experiments done on me. But thanks to that, I was able to grasp and understand things related to magic quickly.

I digressed a bit but, this baton was apparently built for the exclusive use of black magical energy and I instantly understood how to use it the moment I

touched it.

It felt as if someone had prepared this intentionally for my personal use but the actual reason is probably that the magician who lived here was also a black magician like me.

Anyway, the fact that I didn't have to be in an embarrassing outfit while going to the village was an extreme blessing for me. Somehow, my luck seems to be getting better nowadays.

But underneath this fine quality robe I am only wearing trunks. I'll have to make sure that the insides are not seen by mistake. This is my long awaited village debut after all. I don't want to be taken in by the police due to obscenity. Obtaining clothes is still the top priority.

"Alright let's go then! I'll be counting on you to show me the way Lily!"

"Yeah!"

With expectations filled in my heart, we started walking.

The place where we are heading to is known as the Irz village.

I had an image of it being a remote countryside village in the mountains but considering that it's located on a pretty wide highway, it should not be a very small village.

But still, the Pandora continent is also at the level of Middle Ages it seems. Even though I called it a highway, it's not even made with stones let alone proper asphalt. Though it still seems wide enough to let 2 carriages stand side by side. Although it doesn't have a width of a normal road, no wait, this might be the main highway here.

"If you go that way, you'll reach the village of Kuar."

"I see. The villages are connected by this road."

Away from the fairy garden, the village closest to Lily's hut is the Irz village. After that is the village of Kuar. It seems it'll take a few days to reach Kuar even if Lily were to fly there. To find the actual time to be taken, I'll have try walking there.

"If we keep walking like this, we'll reach Irz village before afternoon?"

“Yes.”

There's no need to hurry so let's walk leisurely. And thus, while holding Lily's hand or carrying her on my shoulder, we kept walking on the single road under the clear sky.

“Now that I think about it, we didn't come across anybody.”

It has been 2 hours since we started and there have been no signs of anyone up till now.

Is going across villages is not popular here? No, we have cars in the present age but maybe in this era only merchants or travellers would leave their villages. Well I'll come to know sooner or later what the actual situation is.

As I kept thinking about these things, in front of me, finally the shadow of a building came into view.

“Oh, is it the village!?”

Excited I start running. By the way, Lily is currently on my shoulder.

That building is a small house made of wood. The signs of people living can be clearly seen but no matter how I look at it, the scaling of this house is weird.

“Isn't this a bit too small?”

The door is at most at the height of my neck, and the roof is small enough that it could be reached if I tried to stretch my hands a bit. It closely resembles the houses of the hobbits that appeared in that famous epic fantasy trilogy. (T/N: Lord of the Rings in case you didn't know. Are there people who actually have not watched the LotR?)

“Kurono, this is—”

The moment Lily was about to say something, I became aware of a presence near me.

From the shadow of the house, a goblin with a sickle in its hands appeared.

“Are they survivors from yesterday?”

Although, its outfit was a bit different from those of yesterday. Instead of wearing rags or pieces of leather, this one was wearing matching clothes on both

top and bottom. Well, the green skin of a goblin is still the same though. Leaving that aside, to think that monsters would appear here. Could it be that the residents of this house were attacked?

Already prepared to fight, the moment I readied myself to shoot [Buckshot] at any time—

“What is it lad (T/N: He use An-chan), an acquaintance of Lily?”

“Huh?”

The goblin suddenly spoke in fluent Japanese.

Well, he must have been talking in the original language of this world but I was able to understand due to the various modifications done on me, but that's not what the problem is here!

“Hello!”

“Hello, it doesn't look like you came to sell medicines today.”

“Yes, today you see—”

Suddenly she starts chatting with the goblin. What the hell is this? Just yesterday you were committing genocide against them so why are you suddenly so friendly with them now?

“Um, err..”

For the time being it doesn't look like an atmosphere of a fight, I'll also resolve myself and try talking.

“oo, that's right I didn't hear who the lad was. Well, since you are Lily's companion you don't seem to be a bad guy.”

“Hello, my name is Kurono Maou.”

I don't know why I was greeting a goblin, but I ended up introducing myself politely. (T/N: This is a bit weird to translate but Kurono basically uses very polite and formal speech while introducing himself.)

“Oh my how polite! I am called Vats. So since you have a surname, are you perhaps a noble?”

“Noble?”

“Kurono is a magician!”(lily)

“A magician? Now that you say it, he does look like that.”(Vats)

“Yesterday he also helped me exterminate the goblins together.”(lily)

“Is that so? They had been appearing recently so there had been a talk about a mountain hunt but I guess it’s alright now. Sorry for the trouble as usual.”(Vats)

A goblin is happy that goblins were exterminated? What the hell is this?

“Say Lily, is this person (?) not a goblin?”(kurono)

To avoid letting the person himself to hear it, I asked Lily in a small voice.

“He is a goblin. Why?”

With a face as if wondering why I asked something like that, Lily instantly answered like it was nothing.

“Ah lad, could it be that you don’t know much about monsters?”

“Ye, yes, if possible I’ll be happy if you could explain.”

“Sure. You see, from my point of view, even same goblins are completely different from me. Though from the point of view of other races, the difference can’t be seen properly.”

“Even though you are the same goblins, does that mean that the goblins that we exterminated and Vats-san are different from each other?”

“As expected of a magician, you instantly understood.”

Vats-san who was laughing with a cackling sound looked similar to the ones I killed but now that I properly talked to him, his presence/atmosphere is completely different.

The looks are the same, but inside he is like a human similar to me.

“That means you are a villager of the Irz village?”

“That’s right. I am here in the outskirts growing vegetables and making medicines.”

Is that why he was holding that sickle? It only looks like a bladed weapon to me, but someday maybe I’ll get used to it as well.

“Is the village of Irz a village of goblins then?”

“No, there are also humans and beastmen as well. Lad, are you going to a place like that for the first time?”

“Yes. I have come to this region for the first time so there are a lot of things that I don’t know.”

Yeah, that wasn’t a lie.

“Is that so? Around here most villages are like this filled with many races living together. Although I have never done so but there are people who come here after living in villages with only people of their race. They usually do get surprised like you.”

I see, so there are villages with just one race and villages with mixed as well. I thought that only humans lived here, but it seems monsters with intelligence are also treated the same as humans. If multiple races living together is the norm here they should accept even an outsider like me too.

Even now, Vats-san has been friendly towards me, though it might be due to Lily being with me.

“Well, everyone is good natured so you’ll soon get used to it. Humans like lad are also there as well. If continue from here you’ll soon be in the centre of the village. They’ll easily let you in since you are Lily’s companion.”

“Is that so? Thank you for everything!”(Kurono)

I don’t want to keep him busy any longer. Although I had a few more things to ask, I’ll talk to some other person there.

“Sure. Well then Lily, I’ll be counting on you for the medicines.”(Vats)

“Yes! Bye-bye!”

And thus, after separating from the first villager, Vats-san the goblin, we move towards centre of the village.

Chapter 19 – To the Village of Irz (2)

After some time, a fence of height around 2 meters came into my view. Similar to the port town I had first visited, the village was covered from all sides. But, this wooden fence and the buildings of the village are very small compared to those of that port town.

Also not the entire village was covered inside the fence. Similar to Vats-san, there were many families here and there, probably farmers, who were outside. So it seems that the fence only covered the centre of the village.

At first the village was only inside the fence, but due to increase in population the area of the village kept increasing. But they have been unable to build another fence as of yet. All of this was inferred from my long talk with Lily while coming here.

“Is that the main entrance?”

“Yes.”

In front of me was a plain wooden door that was currently open. Beside it stood the gatekeeper with a long spear in his hands.

“Oh? So it’s Lily-san.”

Lightly armoured and holding a long spear, he looked similar to the one at the port town except his whole body was covered in blue scales and the head was that of a lizard.

Is this what they call a Lizardman?

“Hello!”(lily)

So he really was an acquaintance, he greets Lily as well.

“This the first time I have seen the one with Lily-san.”

“Hello there! I am known as the black magician Kurono.”

It seems having a surname is not common so I only gave my given name. Also calling yourself a magician is also not uncommon in this world.

"Hello hello. I am Grint, just a gatekeeper. But a magician, eh? Lily-san sure knows rare people."

"I have just met Lily but we are already friends."

"ehehe"

It's fine that Lily is getting embarrassed on top of my shoulder but it's a bit too bright if she starts shining like that at such a close distance."

"Is that so? If you are friends with the fairy Lily-san then you can't be a bad person. You're going inside right? You can pass."

"Is it fine letting me pass that easily?"

"Getting along with a fairy is a sign of being a good person. Fairies would never get attached to a bad person; after all they can read the minds of people."

"Eh, Lily can read minds!?"

"?"

What? As if asking that, Lily looks at me.

"Lily, try guessing what I am thinking right now."

"ok."

Actually, I was a member of the literature club in my previous world where I liked writing novels which had a bit painful content. (T/N: He is talking about writing Chuunibyou type novels.)

"Don't know."

".....I see."

It seems she can't read my thoughts word to word. In the first place, is she actually reading my mind?

"ahhahha, you guys really are close. Come on, don't just stand there all day, go in."

"Thank you very much."

Thus, I entered the village of Irz.

Irz is very small when compared to the port town, but I quickly understood the

moment I entered that this was a quiet and peaceful village.

In the central square of the village, probably because it was lunch time, a lot of people had gathered and could be seen eating. As the goblin Vats-san had said, many races seem to be mixed in this village.

Just looking in this square, along with the previously seen humans, goblins and lizardmen, Elves with long ears, dwarves with brilliant beards, beastmen with dog and cat ears, etc. all can be seen.

Uptill now I had seen all beings that looked different than humans as monsters and enemies, but looking at this scene I realized that outer appearance was a trivial thing. By the way, Elf or Dwarf is the official name as well is what I was taught by Lily. But since the words I hear or speak are translated automatically due to the various modifications in my body, so the actual pronunciation might be something completely different.

Well, whatever I say gets automatically corrected for the other party so I don't really have anything to worry about.

"Now then, the village head's house is—“

"That way!"

I had already decided to first greet the village's head the moment I come here.

According to Lily, it's not rare for an outsider to meet the village head when they come here for the first time. He will even meet a suspicious magician like me without any appointment. If this was Japan, there would have been no such thing, but meeting the village head sure gives off an RPG-like feel. No, maybe in the olden times it might not be so rare.

But as expected, you can't meet someone like a king or someone who runs a country. It would be as difficult as meeting the Prime Minister of Japan, I think.

Anyway, I am hoping to ask a lot of things from the village head about this world. Lily who is like a small child, has difficulty in explaining things logically, so if I need proper info I should ask an adult; After all the village head should be informed about a lot of things.

But, it would be good if I don't get suspected.....

"I guess it won't help worrying about it."

With a mind ready to take all sorts of risks, I am led by Lily towards the village head's house.

Chapter 20 – The Head of the Irz Village

My meeting with the head of the village, an old-aged female elf known as Shione-san, was quickly allowed.

Sitting on the seat offered to me, I met her who was sitting across the table.

“Welcome to Irz village Kurono-san, as a friend of Lily-san, we all shall gladly welcome you here.”

“Thank you very much.”

Even here I could feel the extent of Lily’s reputation. Everyone is even using the ‘-san’ suffix. Seriously you’re amazing Lily-san!

It became clear that Lily was clearly known in this village and was trusted very much as well. Even if she had no friends back at home, I was happy that she was so gladly accepted by the villagers.

“Actually I have something to discuss with you, could I have some of your time?”(kurono)

“Sure, I don’t mind at all so take your time.”(shione)

I worried about her job as the head but since she is listening with a smile then I’ll accept her offer. But talking so formally all the time sure is difficult. I haven’t talked this way since my interview for that part time job I had taken.

Still, as long as the other party is an adult, I need to be polite otherwise even things that should go smoothly would go bad. It’s necessary for smooth communication.

I’m trying my best here, so overlook it if my use of formal speech sounds weird.

“Due to some circumstances, I left my faraway hometown and came to this land. During the trip I met with an accident and got stranded in this foreign land.”(kurono)

“Oh my, I thought you were a travelling magician but it seems you have some complicated circumstances.”

"Yes, as to how I ended up here even I'm not very sure of it so I cannot explain in detail. I'm sure you might be curious but I'll be happy if you don't ask about it."

"Is that so? Very well, then I shall not pry any further in this matter. Please continue your story."

"Thank you."

Not explaining the most important part was quite selfish of me but it seems that she is a person with great generosity. I really am thankful for that.

"I had absolutely no knowledge about this area but I met Lily by chance and ended up receiving many favours from her."

"Kurono had fallen inside the forest."(lily)

"You had fainted inside the fairy garden? It must have been difficult for you."(shione)

"No, I met Lily soon so I didn't face any problems. Though I was threatened by the fairies to not approach the fountain of light."(kurono)

"Oh so you even met with the fairies of the fountain? They didn't play any pranks on you, right?"

It seems those who meet the fairies inside the forest get tricked and end up losing their food and items.

They really are outrageous creatures.

Since I didn't hold anything, they were more focused on the apples lying around me and so I was ignored by them except by the one that threatened me.

— — I stayed one night at Lily's house but I can't stay like that without doing anything. Also, I didn't have any money while coming here, so I won't be able to pay any charge if there is one. And so, I first want to become able to live by myself but I lack common knowledge about the village and its surrounding as well. What jobs are available, where to live, I need to understand all these from you."

"Of course I'll gladly do so. It must be difficult to be by yourself at such a young age. Taking in a single human boy is not a problem for this village."

"Ku, Kurono.....you'll live in Irz village?"(lily)

"If possible, yes. I can't live with Lily all the time after all."

"Why!? Stay with Lily! It's lonely!"

"Li, Lily....."

I didn't expect her to cling on me with tears!

Why? Did I say something bad!?

"Kurono-san, fairies don't say anything due to politeness. If Lily-san is insisting so much then you should accept her offer in my opinion."(Shione)

"Is it fine for me to live together with you, Lily? I'm pretty big so the small hut might feel cramped and I don't know what kind of troubles I might cause."(kurono)

"It's not cramped, It's fine to give troubles! Lily wants to be with Kurono!!"(lily)

"o,o,o, Lily.....if you go that far.....I also want to stay with Lily!!"(kurono)

"Really!? You'll live together?"

"Yeah, if Lily so wishes, I live anywhere!"

"Kurono!"

"Lily!"

I tightly hugged Lily who jumped to my chest. Shit! She is way too cute!

"Aren't you glad Kurono-san? It seems the problem of residence has been settled."(shione)

"Yes, similar to the magician that once lived there, I'll live in that hut with Lily."(kurono)

In an unexpected way, my housing problem was settled. It's not like I didn't think of living there but, I thought it might be too impudent of me to ask for it.....but, once again I'm thankful for Lily's kindness.

"Oh? Were you aware of the magician that lived in the forest?"(shione)

"Yes, this robe was also inside the hut, so I believe it was also used by the magician."

"Now that you say it, I thought it looked familiar. Yes, he also wore the same kind of robe."

Ooh, so this really was the magicians robe. Or rather, as expected of an elf, she has met the magician when he was alive.

"The magician of the forest helped this village in a lot of ways. If Kurono-san is also a magician, then I'll be happy if you could also help us with your magic."(shione)

"That magician, how did he help?"(kurono)

"Let's see, putting up a barrier around the village, or compounding rare medicines to cure strong diseases, once he also prayed and made it rain as well."

"Sorry, but all of them are impossible for me....."

Damn those masked men! They didn't teach me any other useful magic except combat ones! They really are the worst!

"It's a bit embarrassing, but I can only exterminate monsters."

"Kurono is very strong! He exterminated the goblins!"(lily)

Thanks Lily, for the excellent follow.

"Ara, is that so? Quite a lot of them were there so it might have taken some time even if we did a mountain hunt. So Kurono-san exterminated them?"(shione)

"Lily was also a big help but yes, the goblins in the cave have been completely annihilated."(kurono)

"In just one day?"(shione)

"Yes, yesterday."(kurono)

"That's amazing. If you are that strong then you could earn a lot as an adventurer."

"Adventurer?"

"You don't know? I was sure they existed in all countries."

"Is it a job that exterminates monsters?"

"Yes, it also includes guarding the villages, escorting merchants, retrieving rare items from dangerous places; oh that's right, for an adventurer their job first and foremost is to search for treasures in a dungeon."

Did she just say du, dungeon!?

That facility was also very much like a dungeon but does this world really have a real dungeon with treasures sleeping inside it?!

Uoh! Somehow I can feel my tension rising!!

"I see so there are dungeons. Can you please explain a bit more in detail?"(kurono)

Calming the excitement in my heart, I pretend to be calm and ask.

"The closest from here would be Fairy Garden I believe."(shione)

Eh, that forest is also treated as a dungeon!?

"But, even adventurers don't approach the fountain of light, not because it's dangerous, but because they don't want to worsen the relationship with fairies. A dungeon that adventurers can explore around here would be the famous Media ruins in the Kuar village caves."(shione)

So a cave dungeon is present near the Kuar village.....a historical ruin dungeon, damn I'm getting too excited.

"Um, can anyone become an adventurer?"(kurono)

"Yes, there is no need to even have any identity proof either. As long as you can complete requests, anyone is fine." We also have an Adventurer Guild here. If you are interested then please visit there."

A guild is a place to collect and give requests to the adventurers.

It seems that the Adventurer's Guild is a very big organization, so adventurers are welcome in every village or town. Also, a request received from the guild means that remuneration is certain. They also provide various other kinds of support facilities as well. Basically, an adventurer will definitely register there.

"Thank you, as an adventurer, even I who can do nothing but fight monsters will also be able to earn there."

"Good. I also frequently put up requests at the guild so I'll be counting on you at that time."

"Yes, I look forward to it."

Well then, with the existence of the occupation known as Adventurer, my vision seems to have opened and expanded a bit more.

After asking some more things about the village, let's go to the Guild at once.

Chapter 21 – Welcome to the Adventurer Guild (1)

Let's get registered at the guild immediately! Is what I said, but the smell of food inside the Guild's lobby cause both our stomachs to rumble together.

"Let's eat first!"

"Yes!"

Like that, leaving the registration for later, we decide to eat out for lunch for the first time. But then as expected of the place, the lobby was filled with adventurers dressed in dangerous looking armour and holding weapons.

"Which would be good?"

"Which would be good?" (T/N: yes Lily echoes what Kurono was saying albeit a bit differently but that's not translatable in English.)

Thanks to the modifications, I became able to even read the letters as well so it was not difficult to read the menu but since it was filled with names of dishes I didn't know, I couldn't decide properly.

It seems it's also a first for Lily since she was also unaware of the dishes. We both sat and racked our brains together.

But it seems that the ordering system is still the same so if I can't decide, I'll ask the attendant for advice. Ah, what about the tip?

"Excuse me, can you please take our order?"

"Yes Yes, coming!"

Saying that a cat-eared waitress came running, or rather, the waitress is a cat itself. Completely covered in a calico cat like fur, the face is also similar to an actual cat, however she's walking on two legs and the body structure is also similar to a human. Basically, she is a member of the so called beastman race. But she has hair like an actual human so her face, even though that of a cat, looks a bit human-like. That's what I felt like on seeing her shoulder length light

brown hair.

“umm—”

For the time being its rude to stare like that so I should order first. And soon after I place the order,

“That will be 520 silver.”(catgirl)

They use the advance payment system so money is demanded first.

From my pocket, I take out a shining gold coin.

“Sorry but I only have a gold coin right now. Will it be fine?”(kurono)

“Nnya! 1 gold right! It’s fine!”(catgirl)

“Then with this.”

I put the gold coin of the size of a 500yen coin on her paw like hands.

“Thank you. The change will be 9480 silver.”

With a jingling sound of the pocket she returned me 9 big silver coins, 4 small silver coin and 8 copper coins that looked exactly like 10yen coins.

“Please wait for the order.”(catgirl)

While shaking her ears and tail she returned behind the counter.

Fuu, it seems I was able to order and make payment without any problems. Thank god.

“But still, I really got a lot of money. Well, it’s good for the penniless me though.”

As to why I had something amazing like a gold coin, I received it from village head Shione as a reward for the goblin extermination.

A total of 20 gold coins. Converting to Japanese yen, it was about 200,000 yen.

Since both me and Lily had no purses with us, the gold coins were kept inside my shadow. Well, in terms of safety, it is the best place.

I also learnt about this country’s money system from her.

I was afraid that they might still use barter system so I was relieved when I was

told that a proper currency was used. Without it I would have difficulty in shopping above all I am not used to it.

Also the currency here is divided into gold, silver and copper types. The denomination isn't very strict but for large amounts gold is used. Below it silver and so on.

The gold I gave was basically equal to 10,000yen. The change I received was 1 big silver = 1000 yen and small silver was 100yen and copper was 10yen.

1 gold = 10000 silver is the exchange rate so silver became the value proportionate to Japanese yen. For denominations below 10yen both copper and small silver(T/N: this is different from the previous silver coins) are used. The guild uses copper for this.

I also learnt a bit about the prices of things but the actual market prices can't be known till I actually start shopping once.

The prices of meals at the guild seem to be common at all the guilds so it becomes the standard price for food and meals.

If the cost of lunch for two is 520yen, no, 520 silvers then the prices are approx. half as compared to Japan.

Also, 20 gold coins seems to be more than what an average farmer of the village earns in a month. I was a bit perplexed due to suddenly getting enough money to play around for a month but it seems that a goblin extermination if requested from the guild would have taken much more money than this.

The talk was settled since both the parties had profited from it.

Incidentally, as the proof for exterminating the goblins, Lily's testimony was enough. Apparently, fairies don't speak bad lies so their testimony is considered credible. Of course, another reason would be that Lily is trusted by these villagers.

As I was thinking this, our order finally came.

The difficult talk about money disappeared in front of the steaming delicious food. With an [Itadakimasu], I and Lily bite into the food in front of us.

That's right, the culture of saying [Itadakimasu] and [Gochisousama](Thanks for

the meal)] before eating is apparently common in both Japan and Pandora.

“Delicious! This mysterious meat called Dorthoth is way too delicious!”

“Tasty!”

Eating this dish made from unknown ingredients and again drinking tea of unknown tea leaves without any hesitation, I finally take a breather.

“fuuu, that was tasty—”

Lily’s tea felt like black tea but this one felt like barley tea so they must be totally different. I almost forgot but after resting a bit more, I should go register as an adventurer.

“Lily, when we return home, I have something to tell you.”

“Kurono has something to tell?”

“Although I dodged the village head’s question somehow by saying that I came from far away, I’ll tell only Lily the actual truth.”

“Is that so? Ok!”

“Thanks! We will be together for a long time from now after all. Now then, I’ll go and get myself registered as adventurer.”

“Yeah! Take care!”

Sent off by Lily’s smile, I stood from my seat.

Chapter 22 – Welcome to the Adventurer Guild (2)

When I reached the reception counter of the guild, the one who was standing there was,

“Ah, miss waitress from just now.”

“Ah, Mr. customer from just now!”

The cat waitress was standing at the reception. Are they perhaps short on workers?

“Are you looking for a request?”

“No, I’m here to register as an adventurer.”

“I see, so you were a newcomer!”

“Yes, I’m just a novice who doesn’t know anything so I’ll be counting on you to guide me.”

“.....You are a quite polite person.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes. The only who talks so politely with an underling like me is just the village’s head only. Most of the others are rude adventurers after all.”

Now that I think about it, the village head was kind enough towards a suspicious youngster like me too. Is she like that with everyone?

Also, the adventurers being rough and rude is as expected from their appearance. The one group sitting in the lobby are all people with big bodies. Even I who stood out as a big guy in high school would look normal among those guys.

“So, ah, I haven’t asked for your name yet. I am Nyarko.”

“Nyanko?” (T/N: Nyanko also means little cat/kitty in jap.)

“It’s Nyarko! You are also rude it seems!”

"eh, sorry, um, Nyan.....no, Nyarko-san, my name is Kurono."

It seems that cat-humans find it rude to be treated as normal cats. I learned a new thing.

"Yes yes, so Kurono-san, ah, there is no need to be so formal with me. You'll get tired, right?"

"Ah, you realized?"

"Yes it shows. Still, to use formal speech with other people, it seems Kurono-san has received some proper education. Which school did you go to?"

"ahaha, I'll be glad if you didn't ask too much about my circumstances. I came here because I heard that anyone could become an adventurer without any identity proof."

"I see, so you have some special circumstances."

"That's right."

"Understood. Then neither I nor this guild will ask any further. Now then, please enter the details in the application form."

I was presented with a paper and pen.

"Ah, if you can't write then I can write for you for 200 silver."

I see. Since education and schools are not prevalent, the literacy rate would also be low. So it's normal to also provide such support services.

Fortunately, it's not necessary for me.

"No, it's fine."

I have never written these alphabets like characters that are used in this world but the knowledge already exists within my head. So writing is also possible.

Although, I can't write very smoothly or fast. I need to think and write at my own pace.

Thinking that I need practice, I fill up the details in the form.

Well the only things I have to write is name, age and sex but—

"What is this 'class'?"

"That is where you write whether you are swordsman or a magic warrior, basically you mention your fighting style. This will be one of the criteria while making a party, also your elemental compatibility against monsters etc. will be required for making other important decisions as well. Of course, adventurers are not like an army so they are not separated by proper classes. So everyone writes whatever they feel like. The class name should be as close as possible to their fighting style. If you can't think of something, just use your specialty weapon as a class."

"I see, so it is self-styled names, then—“

I think up the characters in my head and write with the pen.

"Black Magician, is it?"

"Yeah, I couldn't think of anything that sounded cooler. Are black magical energy users rare?"

"Yes they are. Black magic has too many old secrets. So there is no user who could become an adventurer."

"Magicians, or rather, are most of the magic warriors users of primary colour magical energy like fire, ice etc.?"

"Rather than saying most, pretty much everyone who uses magic is like that. Even users of Summon magic and Healing magic possess at least one primary colour magic."

"I see. I can't use primary colour magic; in the first place I'm not well-acquainted with magic itself."

"If you were to go to towns you could attend lectures on magic, but here we only do the basic explanation for adventurers."

Lectures on magic, if I get a chance I'll try attending some. I should at least be aware of what I'm using.

"Will you give the basic explanations for adventurers now?" (kurono)

"Yes, only the simple rules have to be explained right now. If there is anything else, you can file a form to listen to it." (Nyarko)

"I see, ah, my companion is waiting so if it's going to take some time, can I

have her listen together with me?”

“By companion, you mean Lily-san?”

“You know her? Lily really is famous.”

“There is no one who doesn’t know. After all she has been selling the miracle medicine of fairies super cheap for the past 30 years.”

“ooh, Lily’s medicines are that amazing——wait, did you just say 30 years!?”

“That’s right. Lily-san will be 32 this year if I’m correct.”

“eh.....eeeeeh!?”

I ended up screaming.

The people around me look towards me wondering what happened but that’s irrelevant to me who just heard an absolutely shocking truth.

“32 years old!? Seriously!?”

“I’m serious.”

Up till now, I had thought that she was only 5-6 years old. No, normally my thinking wasn’t wrong.

What the hell, 32 years old, that means, I mean, what the actual hell.....

“No need to be that surprised. Fairies live very long after all. And their appearance doesn’t change either. Age doesn’t hold the same meaning as us for them.”

“I, I see.....basically she has been of the same mental age from the time she was born?”

“Exactly, but they have good memory so they know a lot of things. Especially Lily-san, who came to human habitation from the fountain of light, knows a lot about this area. She is also familiar with the head of the Kuar village as well.”

“Is, is that so....?”

As I timidly turned around, I saw Lily sitting in the lobby.

Realizing that I was looking, she waved towards me.

Th,that cute little creature is 32 years old.....

I can't believe this.....no, this is a fantasy magical world, something like this is not impossible.

"Well, whatever the age, it doesn't change the fact that she is Lily."

"ah, so you'll be taking the elementary level lecture with Lily-san? By the way the price is 1000 silver coins. I'll not take Lily-san's share of price."

"Please."

Taking out a big silver coin from my purse (to be accurate, it was from my shadow), I gave it to Nyarko-san.

"Well then I'll do some preparations, so Kurono-san, please wait in the lobby with Lily-san."

"Got it."

And so I returned to the seat where the 32 yr old Lily was waiting for me.

Am I caring too much about her age.....?

Chapter 23 – Quest and Rank (1)

“Well then, newbie adventurers Kurono-san & Lily-san, I’ll be teaching you the fundamentals about the guild and adventurers!”(nyarko)

“Ah, Nyarko-san will be giving the lecture?”(kurono)

“hehe actually this is my first time doing this.”

“Is Nyarko-san a new employee in the guild?”

“That’s right! Though it hasn’t been even a full year since I started working, I am already the poster girl of the Irz Village adventurer guild!”

“Poster girl? Is that your self-proclaimed class?”

“I am the Poster girl in reality as well!! Kurono-san really is rude!?”

“Sorry, I got it. Nyarko-san is the guild’s poster catgirl.”

“As long as you understand. Well, enough with the greetings, let’s start the lecture.”

We’ll be counting on you! – is what both I and Lily said but Lily is still making an expression that she doesn’t understand what’s going to start.

Well, I’m the one who is becoming an adventurer; Lily isn’t really concerned with it.

“Umm, then firstly.....umm.....let’s start with the rules & important points used by the guild!”(nyarko)

She just forgot, didn’t she?

“Ah, Kurono-san, will you be taking notes?”(nyarko)

“Thanks, that’ll help.”(kurono)

I was given a blank paper and pen similar to the one I used just now.

Considering their level civilisation, I thought they might use parchments but this is a clean sheet almost comparable with those in modern Japan.

I wonder if they have established the technology to process pulp or are they

using some mysterious magic for this as well.

“Then first of all, regarding the request made to adventurers. Kurono-san knows that the guild is an organisation to provide various requests to the adventurers?”(nyarko)

“Yeah, I heard that from the village head.”(kurono)

“Then this’ll be fast. The guild accepts requests from big towns and villages as well as single individuals. The details and rewards of the quest introduced by the guild are usually trusted and correct. In case investigation of the quest details is insufficient or impossible, the same is written on the quest form as well. Then, it is upto the adventurer to decide whether he takes the quest or not. Again, there are times in case of emergencies where the guild will order compulsory quests to the adventurers.”

“What kind of compulsory quests?”

“The most common example would be rescue missions in case of calamities and times when a dragon or a similar level of disaster appears. That’s why they are also called emergency quests. Both are very rare cases so you don’t have to worry that much. By the way, in case you refuse an emergency quest then you’ll have to pay a cancellation charge as well. If you don’t pay it, then in worst case, you might be removed from the guild so please be careful.”

“What’ll happen if you are removed from a guild?”

“Of course you shall be unable to use the guild facilities. Also, if you take requests directly without the mediation of the guild then the chances of discrepancies in the quest details and reward amount will become much higher. Just by not being able to use the guild, you’ll become unable to work as an adventurer, so please abide by the rules.”

“I see. Is there any other way that might lead to removal from guild?”

“First, regarding the rewards. The guild takes 10% of the reward money from the client as commission. This amount is already deducted from the amount shown on the request form. The guild takes full responsibility for the requests introduced by them, therefore in case the client suddenly went missing or died and trouble regarding the payment of reward appears, in no case will the

adventurer be left unrewarded so you can be relived. But, in case of failing the quest, or becoming unable to continue it, a cancellation charge as per the situation or the money required to transfer the quest to another adventurer will be taken from you so please understand.”

“As long as the adventurer completes the quest, reward is certain but in case of failure, a charge to be paid may appear so don’t complain at that time, right?”

“Exactly, it is quite a basic thing but still in every guild there is adventurer who is stuck with a claim. Kurono-san looks intelligent so there isn’t worry of that though.”

“Complimenting me won’t get you anything.”

“Not at all. There are very few who understand everything uptill now. Unable to even do simple plus minus, there are over-emotional people as well after all. But I think that Kurono-san is the type that can properly use his head.”

“Well, I’ll at least not get stuck with a claim from the guild as long as there is a chance of getting removed and penalised.”

I was thought as someone educated just by my manners, in this world a common Japanese man should be considered as an over-educated person probably.

It’s not that I’m amazing but it’s the surrounding education standards that are poor. Well it can’t be helped since there is no system to make people go to school.

“Also, regarding the quests, I’ll explain about their ranks.”(Nyarko)

“Difficult or easy quest, or something like that?”

“Yes, your own adventurer rank as well as quest rank and also monster rank, all are compared to choose the most optimal quest. Even the guild doesn’t want to raise the failure percentage of quests due to some reckless adventurer taking on too difficult quests, so an adventurer cannot take on quests above his own rank.”

“How are ranks divided?”

“All ranks are divided into ranks 1-5, rank 1 being lowest and 5 the highest.

Quest rank is decided as per the monster to be defeated or the danger of the dungeon. Adventurer rank starts at 1 and after the accomplishments and achievements are recognised, the rank will be raised. In special cases where knights or soldiers who have accomplishments in wars decide to become adventurers, they can take an examination to start directly from rank 3. Well, this can't be done in the Irz village though."

"Then that means that I'll start at rank 1."

5 grades is a pretty simple method for differentiating. There would quite a lot of differences even inside the same rank. So, they are also divided into first half and second half it seems.

Poorly classifying the numerous quests will troublesome after all, it can't be helped though. Guessing the difficulty of the quest from the details given will also depend on the experience of the adventurer.

"That's all regarding quests. Also, please be careful to not get civilians injured, don't trespass private properties and avoid causing damage to their items and things. Just because you are on a quest doesn't mean that guild will take responsibility for your criminal actions. Also, the guild will not be concerned with disputes with other adventurer parties. You are responsible for your own actions"

"I see, basically act within common sense, right?"

"Yes, the guild doesn't restrict an adventurer's actions; the adventurer can complete the quest however he wants."

"Got it. Then I'll like to see the rank 1 quest I can take right away."

"Feel free and choose! Is what I'd like to say but at this time there aren't many quest that can be taken though."

Nyarko-san kept a bunch of requests forms on the table.

For the time being, let's see---

Chapter 24 – Quest and Rank (2)

Quest: Collection of Rixei grass

Reward: 5000 silvers per bag

Deadline: first week of the month of distant thunder (Enrai)

Client: Irz village Item shop shopkeeper Kisshu(T/N: キッシュ suggest a better name if you can think)

Details: Required to enter Fairy Garden and collect a prescribed amount of Rixei grass in bags. A party who brings more than 3 bags will receive one potion set compounded from Rixei grass as well.

Quest: Recruiting Escorts for Peddler group (From Kuar to Daidalos)

Reward: daily wage of 7500 silver + battle allowances

Deadline: 20th of the month of Early-summer breeze (Ryokufuu), departure on 22nd

Client: Peddler representative Morty

Details: Recruiting escorts for a group of peddlers from Kuar to Daidalos. Free three meals per day. It'll be a month long journey but the route is the north-west highway with almost no dangers.

Quest: Recruiting luggage carrier for [Irz Blader]

Reward: 3000 silver per day

Deadline: plan till the end of the month of early-summer breeze (Ryokufuu)

Client: Leader of [Irz Blader] – Nino

Details: We need a luggage carrier for the party. The quest is a level 2 monster extermination but we'll protect you properly so don't worry!

Quest: Night sentry at Irz Village

Reward: 4000 silver per day

Deadline: Recruiting till the month of new sun (Shinyou)

Client: Irz village vigilante corps leader Grint

Details: Recently goblin and raptor type monsters have been increasing. So we need to reinforce the night time security of the village. You can come whenever you are available and can take the reward for the day on that day as well.

“Hmm, there are some words that I can’t understand.....”(kurono)

Turning the 10 page documents I read the various quests available.

The major details I can understand since I can understand the letters but I can’t understand many things like calendar or place names, names of monsters etc. I can’t decide quickly like this.

“Even if you can’t understand well, most of the rank 1 quests here can be completed without much trouble, there is barely any fighting involved after all.”(Nyarko)

“No, before that I need to understand the calendar and names of places; do you sell a calendar and a map?”

“mumu, to think that someone cultured like Kurono-san doesn’t know the calendar, this is very unexpected. Could it be you’re a prince of a far away country!?”

“Aren’t you dreaming a bit too much?”

“Oops sorry. I wasn’t supposed to talk about this right? Um, both calendar and maps are sold at the item shop.”

“The shop of the one mentioned in the quests?”

“That’s right. Since it’s the only item shop in the village, all adventurers get their potions and other items from there.”

“The villagers also use it but the main customers are definitely the adventurers. If Kurono-san is going to become an adventurer at the village then you’ll definitely have to go there someday. After leaving here take a right and you’ll soon see its board.”

“Okay, I’ll go there after this.”

“Also Kurono-san, this is a bit unrelated to adventurer job, but if you want to

learn about the calendar, geography and the plants and animals as well as monsters around here, you can ask to see the books stored in the village head's house. Kurono-san can read after all, and you also seem to have a good understanding ability as well as memory so there shouldn't be any problem."

"Yeah, I like reading as well as writing."

"Eh, Kurono-san is a writer!?"

"Ah, no.....as a hobby....."

Shit, if she asks what type of books I write I'll be in trouble.

"oops, this will also come under over-inquiry, I won't ask anything else."

"Thanks."

It seems she thinks that there might be some secret since I was hesitating right now, but let's just let her think that way. It'll be easier for me as well.

She probably won't understand even if I told her about a supernatural battle-story set in modern Japan after all. And there is also a chance of me being treated as a mentally ill guy as well.

"Anyway, can anyone freely read in the library at village head's house?"

"It's not something as amazing as a library but if you talk about a place where books are kept then it's either there or here (guild) only."

I see, collection of books isn't common in houses even in modern Japan as well after all.

"Is that so? Then I'll try going there tomorrow."

For the time being I should be able to learn a lot about this world from those books.

"Well then Kurono-san, will you be accepting any quests?"

"No, I need to gather information and make some preparations so I won't be taking any today."

"Very well. Other than quests, we also reward for collecting raw materials and killing monsters as a freelance as well so please make use of that too. The details about it are put up on the bulletin board there. The sale price of materials and

rewards on subjugating monsters changes with season so please keep on checking regularly. Ah, by the way, the current recommendation is goblin subjugation! It seems a big group has settled near here so the price is quite high right now. Soon an extermination quest might appear as well."

"Are you talking about the ones living in the cave west of Fairy Garden?"

"You are well aware; did you hear it from Lily-san? But even if you are with Lily-san please be careful, if you get to close them they'll attack in large numbers. In case of goblin extermination, it is advised to split them in small groups and attack them!"

"Sorry but the goblins there have already been already annihilated."

"Eh?"

"Yesterday, I and Lily exterminated them."

"Eeeh!? Really!?"

"Yes, I also received the reward from the Village head as well. The gold coin I paid during lunch was out of that. Well the fairies of the fountain had pushed the work on Lily so I just decided to do it and help her though."

"Yesterday? In just one day?"

"Yeah, we attacked the cave directly and finished it up."

"Ku, Kurono-san did?"

"More or less, though Lily destroyed the cave itself in the end so I might lose in terms of number defeated though."

"No, No way.....just who are you Kurono-san?"

"You promised not to ask right? Well I did say that I am black magician."

"I see.....right, it doesn't matter who Kurono-san is as long as you can contribute to the village and the guild by completing quests. If you are strong enough to single-handedly take on such a large group of goblins then all the more so! I look forward to working with you!"

"Same here."

"Umm, if you are that strong then was there any reason to even hear such an

elementary level lecture? Also are you fine to be at rank 1?"

"That is, well, my knowledge is quite one-sided you see. I need to hear the rules at least. Although, there really isn't any meaning in hearing the methods to defeat goblins."

"I understand. If you have anything you need to know about the village or guild, please ask me."

"Thanks, I'll be counting on you."

"Also, umm"

"Hm?"

"Is Lily-san really that strong?"

On her question there was no change in Lily because,

"Ah, she fell asleep."

She was sleeping comfortably lying on my lap.

After eating so much and listening to such boring lecture she might have become sleepy after all. For the time being, she seems to be resistant to waking up so I'll let her sleep.

"Are the people of the village aware of Lily's strength? From her words, the village head was also aware that Lily had been constantly exterminating monsters."(Kurono)

"To protect the fountain of light it is said that she has been fighting the monsters in Fairy Garden for a long time now. It's a quite famous story. But, whenever I see her like that I just can't seem to believe it....."(Nyarko)

That overly innocent sleeping face. No matter how you look at it, it doesn't look like the face of someone who fights.

"No, well, even I thought the same thing at first. But, Lily is definitely strong. At least she can use stronger magic than me."

The beams of light that repelled the rain of arrows and the pillar of light that smashed the cave, I don't think I can defend against either of them.

"Is, is that so? Amazing."(Nyarko)

“Well, it doesn’t sound believable until you see it for yourself.”

“Somehow, you guys are an amazing combination. This definitely raises my expectations! First-class adventurer might not be a dream!”

“Hm, well I don’t really want to rise to such heights. I only became an adventurer to take care of my livelihood.”

In the first place, Lily isn’t even an adventurer.

“Not at all. You will also start to aim for greater heights when you start completing quests.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes! That is what it means to be an adventurer!”

Without any basis, Nyarko-san proclaims this with confidence.

I can’t really think of that but maybe I will also one day become an adventurer who pursues his dream and romance?

At least, as long as I am living with Lily, at least the future looks bright.

{T/N:the view changes to third person here}

Even in this world, there exist things that are a proof of a person’s status.

If you are an adventurer, it is the certificate issued by the guild, *i.e.* the Guild card.

As long as you have it, you can get verified in any guild and receiving quests and rewards becomes smooth. It was a small dark grey plate made of metal. If Kurono saw it he might feel it’s similar to [Dog tags].

“Ah, Nyarko, is that for the person in the black mantle who just came?”

“Yes, that’s right.”

The senior staff member of the Avian harpy race – Pine, looked at the guild card with interest.

“Black magician? Another weird one came it seems.”(Pine)

On the guild card, the name, rank and class is written.

“Yeah, he is a completely mysterious person!”(Nyarko)

"Well that isn't really rare though. But he seems to be a companion of Lily-san so he shouldn't be just some hoodlum or villain."(Pine)

Since you can become an adventurer without giving any info about yourself, shady group of thieves and criminals also tend to gather here as well. Especially muscle-headed hoodlums and thugs who are proud of their strength.

Of course, adventurers aren't just these guys but then again it's also true that there are quite a lot of them like these guys.

"Kurono-san has a scary face but it seems he is properly educated. He seems to be skilled at magic as well. He might be some noble or the apprentice of a famous magician."(Nyarko)

"fuun, skill at magic? Did you see his black magic?"(Pine)

"No but he exterminated the goblins who had appeared along with Lily-san. He also got rewarded by the Village head so he doesn't seem to be lying as well."

"Well looks like an amazing one has appeared.....this rookie has high expectations on him."

"Yes! I'm excited as well!"

"But, this place doesn't have many high ranked quests."

"I know."

But still, the presence of a strong adventurer in a village is always a good thing.

Although it costs money, they can take action quickly in case of monster attacks. They also exterminate monsters near the area as quests so the safety of the village is also guaranteed.

Other than that, if a variety of quests are properly completed, the client is able to perform his business smoothly.

"Now then, I'll go and deliver the guild card."

And thus, Kurono received the guild card and officially became a guild affiliated adventurer.

Chapter 25 – Irz Village Toolmaker

“Welcome”

I heard the voice of a man from inside the chaotic shop when I opened the door.

Sitting at the counter was a portly middle-aged man. It seems like he is the toolmaker ‘Kische’ of Irz village.

“Hello, I am a rookie adventurer who just finished the guild registration, and I’m here to purchase the necessary items.”

“Oh yes yes, we keep all things you’ll need in the store. My name is Kische and I hope you continue to favor my store with your patronage in the future.”

“Yes. I am called Kurono, I’ll be in your care.”

The shopkeeper shows a kindhearted smile. It seems that even in a different world the business-smile is a basic skill for a merchant.

“By the way Kurono-san, the thing you’re carrying on your shoulder is perhaps.....”

“Lily is having a little nap, I’d like us to speak as calmly as possible.”

Lily who completed the basic course as a sleeping tutorial, is still on a journey in dreamland, even after leaving the guild.

It couldn’t be helped, so I came over to the store carrying her on my back.

“If it’s okay with you, would you like to lay her on this chair?”

“Sorry, I appreciate it.”

With the owner’s kind permission I gently lay Lily on the couch. Lily is lighter than she appears, I wonder if it’s because she is a fairy. It will inconvenient to move around the shop carrying her, and she seems to have bad dreams if I move around too much.

“Well, I was surprised. Do you and Lily know each other?”

As expected of Lily-san. She’s even famous here

Yes, we are friends, from now onwards I'll be living with her.

"Is that so? Why are you livi——"

"There are various circumstances and I'd appreciate it if you didn't pry too much."

"However, I'm thinking of working as an adventurer in Irz for a while, so please take care of me from now on."

"That is a grateful offer even to us, because supporting an adventurer is not only the work of the guild. So then, then you want to prepare to work as an adventurer, is that right?"

"Yes, but it's my first time doing this and I don't know what I will need to prepare. Can you assist me in choosing properly?"

I honestly ask for help without putting on airs. Even if I was made to buy too much there's no way it would cost over 20 gold.

"Of course I can. But you see there is an adventurer set for rookies."

"That..... sounds like a very convenient thing."

"It is common for a lot of newcomers to miss what is important, so it would be much better to sell the necessary things in a set."

"Oh, it sounds like there would be quite a demand for such a kit."

"Nh? Kurono-san, to know a word like 'demand', are you a son of some shopkeeper? Your way of speaking is also very polit—— Whoa, I did say I won't pry into your affairs. From my side Kurono-san is an adventurer, and will be shopping at our shop, that's the important thing, right?"

"Thank you."

"I'll go prepare your rookie set so please wait for a moment."

It is called 'adventurer set', huh? Pretty straightforward item name it has, but for the current me it is a necessary thing, I honestly appreciate it. It seems I'll be able to carry out my shopping smoothly.

"Yes, it is indeed 2 gold. Thank you for your purchase."

The rookie set I bought, was the most expensive one.

It's not like I am being taken advantage of, this set contains a tent for sleeping outdoors, so it was expensive. In the first place, it was a thing I didn't have, and by adding various things to my purchase it came to this price.

The thing that impressed me most in this shopping was the recovery potion. I read about collecting the ingredients for a potion in a quest description, but seeing the real thing in front of me, it really is impressive.

The potions come as a liquid contained in a thin vial, much like what you'd see in an RPG. The liquid inside isn't a primary color like red or green, but rather it is a shade of greyish white. Potions are a liquid medicine, in addition to it, there are ointments for healing wounds too.

For external injuries like bleeding, the ointment is used and during a combat it might be much faster to close the wounds, compared to the potion.

In any case, I purchased a rookie set plus various things for 2 gold. It somehow makes me happy thinking this is now all my property.

"Kurono-san, that is quite a lot of luggage, are you sure you can carry it back?"

That reminds me, I don't have a bag let alone a horse drawn carriage. While holding some of the luggage with one arm I realise it is too much for one person, but luckily I'm a black mage!

"It's okay, it all goes in-"

The shadow extends from my feet and takes in the rookie set inside like a quagmire.

"This is... Well, I am surprised that you have learned spatial magic too."

Even though he knew I was a black magician from looking at my guild card, he is surprised because he thought a rookie wouldn't have such a level of skill? So this is called spatial magic.

For now I've learned it's unusual for someone to know this magic at a low rank.

"Kurono you seem to have a lot of skill in magic. Come to think of it, do you have a weapon prepared?"

"A weapon, well, more or less."

I have a large cursed hatchet.

"Is that so, for weapons there is a workshop for them on the outskirts of village. It'll be good if you head there, they repair everything except magical weapons. They don't specialise in canes or grimoires, but you can more or less see them in our workshop. They also appraise goods and weapons, if you find anything like that in a dungeon, by all means go there to have it appraised."

"What do you mean by 'appraisal'?"

"Did you know there is such a thing as a magical weapon?"

"Yes I've seen them several times and also used them here and there."

"If you have some experience, then that's good. Our appraiser can explain what sort of power the magical weapon has, how to use it and many other things."

"The appraisal of the sharpness of the blade, or which skills or spells it has are outside their area of expertise, you can go to workshop if it's okay with you."

"I see... Can cursed weapons also be appraised?"

"Cu-, Cursed weapons is it? It is dangerous and it cannot be appraised if we don't know the curse. Well, we more or less can appraise it."

"Is that so—"

I'm secretly excited while I take the cursed hatchet out of my shadow.

"Can you appraise this?"

I place the big hatched on the counter. It is solid black from the handle to the blade.

Is it my magic or the malice of the hatchet, a sinister aura starts flowing out from the blade.

"T-, This is... You also have such a ridiculous thing?"

The shopkeeper pulls his face back, maybe this is what happens when a normal person has a cursed weapon put in front of them. No, maybe because he is a tradesman, that he is only reacting this much..

"Kurono-san....., by any chance, did you dispel... No, you overwrote the curse

with black magic?"

"It is called overwrite? I don't know. So that I can use it, I wrapped it in black magic."

"Is that so? You did a great job, it is suppressing almost all the malice of the curse, to 'overwrite' the process in itself is simple, but it consumes a large amount of magical power. Kurono-san you have a great talent."

"Is that so, it is something I can't know by myself. It's just that, I think because my black magic has good compatibility with the curse that it can be done easily."

"Splendid! Kurono-san you're the very rare type which can use a cursed weapon, without making any changes in it. If it's alright with you, I can sell the cursed weapons we have here on cheap prices to you."

"Wha-, is that alright?"

"The cursed weapons are naturally difficult to use, but even storing them safely is a hassle. Unless there is an an complete seal on the curse, the weapon can't be used easily, even if it does have a seal if not taken care periodically, who knows what calamity may befall on the user. After all, they are accompanied by bad luck."

"I see, but when used normally, it has a great power."

"No matter how powerful it is, if you make a mistake in using it, you cannot come back to life after then. So how about it?"

"I'm really curious about it, but for today I'll be going back."

The sun is still up and shining, but if we leave the village during sunset, we will have to walk on the road in pitch black darkness.

"I see, so the appraisal results will be given tomorrow. Is that alright?"

"Okay, well then I'll be coming tomorrow, it would be good if you can show me the cursed weapons. Ah, along with that I would like you to see my other weapons too."

"Yes, please."

I take out the small knife and the black baton out from my shadow. They were

inside the treasure box along with the robe, I can't understand how to use the knife and I more or less understand the how to use the baton. There is no harm in having them appraised.

"The cost of appraisal per weapons is 2000 silver, is it alright with you?"

It seems like to appraise the weapons, a special practical magic is needed, along with the materials required for invocation of "Catalyst" magic. It seems like this price is not very expensive and is common here.

"Yes, please do so."

"Certainly, then see you tomorrow."

I entrust the weapon with the shopkeeper and leave the shop—— then stopped walking.

I completely forgot it, the me right now is only wearing an underwear under the robe. I have the same level of equipments like the perverts that sometimes appear on the school route.

The thing most important to me is, neither the magic weapon nor items, but normal clothes.

"Excuse me, where can I buy the clothes and underwears."

Without saying unnecessary things, I calmly ask the shopkeeper pretending to be wearing acceptable clothes.

"Yes, in that case——"

I gather the information about the most important shopping, and this time leave in the shop in a 'cool way'. By the way Lily was still sleeping.

Chapter 26 – Story of a Normal High School Student

Kurono Mao was a 17 year old high school student.

He never dyed his hair, neither smoked nor quarreled, there was also no one in his surroundings who would do such things, he was living a truly peaceful high school life.

His family background was also normal, he had two parents and one older sister.

The only worries he had were the exams next year and the deadline for the literature club's anthology.

A regular and peaceful daily life, I had all of these things. [ET: Author changed from third person perspective to first person perspective]

“But, without understanding a thing, I was in a place I didn’t know.”

The first time I opened my eyes in this world was in a laboratory where a ring was being installed into me.

Shit, even just by remembering it worsens my mood. For the rest of my life I doubt that I will ever face a morning wake up worse than that.

“The freedom of my body was stolen, and I became an experimental subject in the facility with only white rooms. As a result, I am now able to use black magic, my body has become a lot sturdier, I am able to understand the language of this world and am able to write and read the characters of this world as well.”

Though I did not ask for it, I was forcibly given this power.

The power I have right now cannot be gained without training in this world.

I got this power in less than one year, the compensation for it was the immense pain inflicted on my mind and body.

“After I gained power to some extent, I was forced to fight in what was called ‘mobility experiments’.”

It started off with an empty-handed light golem, and gradually the opponents kept becoming stronger.

Along with that, I also certainly got stronger.

"And once my opponent was.....a human from the same world as me, but I only discovered that after I had killed him."

From then on, I completely relinquished my own will to them.

Nevertheless, the experiment was not going to stop, just, I started to feel I needed to escape from there.

Even though my sense of awareness was fading away, the experience I gained with my body became my own.

"Even after that, I was forced to fight in the same experiment. I can't count how many people I had killed, but I was the one killed them. And each time I killed a person I gradually became stronger—let's see, I gained the power which can defeat a fire breathing dragon."

In those days, I had no time to regain my sense of awareness.

It was at that moment, when my sense of awareness and ego were about to disappear.

"I didn't understand the circumstances in which it occurred, by the time I regained my sense of awareness, my ring was lying on the floor of the experiment room. Now that I think about it, the reason my sense of awareness was fading might be an effect of the ring. Anyway, the main source of restraining me the 'ring' was now removed. I killed all the masked men and escaped from the laboratory facility without hesitation."

In the end, thanks to the power given to me by them, I was able to escape from the facility. After that, without eating or drinking anything I was able to reach here.

If it wasn't for Sariel, escaping from the laboratory wouldn't have been as dangerous.

"After escaping the facility, I thought of running to a place where they won't come looking for me, and so I boarded a ship bound to the Pandora Continent.

Then, when I woke up, Lily was there.”

I narrated the circumstances I had to Lily, who was sitting on top of my leg.

I don’t know the important things, such as how I came to this world and true identity of the masked men.

“Kurono.....”

“It’s alright now Lily, it was certainly painful, but it’s all past now.”

Even if Lily didn’t know everything in detail, she still understood the feelings I lived with inside the laboratory.

After such a long time, I don’t want words of consolation, I just wanted Lily to know about me.

Although, Lily being by my side was a sufficient amount of consolation for me.

“Hey Lily, do you know magic to summon a person from another world?”

“Another world? I don’t know, but there is summoning magic ‘summon’.”

“The one to call monsters?”

“Yeah.”

“Are most of the summoning magics like that?”

“Yeah, most can call out monsters or familiars. Other than that I don’t know.”

“I see.....”

I have seen monster or familiar summoning magic sometimes during the ‘mobility experiments’.

I wonder if I was also summoned from a big illuminated magic square like them.

However, the summoning magic Lily and I know are for calling someone from a different place in this world, not for calling someone from another world.

“Kurono, do you want to go home? When will you go back?”

“Aah, I want to go home. I left everything I have attained in my life entirely, when I came here——”

I wonder, what is happening right now in my previous world.

Am I being treated as a ‘missing person’ over there? Either way, there is no doubt that I’ve caused my family trouble.

At the very least, it will be much better if I could send a single letter.

“However, I don’t know much about magic, and the outrageous magic for traversing between worlds will not be discovered easily. That’s why, I will live here for a while, or else for my whole life in this world. Well, if it comes to that, I request you keep on having a everlasting friendship with me.”

“Un! Lily will always live with Kurono!”

“Thanks, Lily.”

I thought if I can live with Lily, then maybe living in this another world will also be interesting.

Chapter 27 – First Quest!

Quest: Collection of Rixei grass.

Reward: 5000 silver per bag.

Deadline: the first week of the month of Distant Thunder.

Client: Irz Village tool shop owner Kische.

Details: Required to enter the Fairy Garden and collect a prescribed amount of Rixei grass in bags. The party which brings more than three bags will receive one potion set compounded from Rixei grass.

“And so, here I am in the fairy garden!”

Wearing the clothes and carrying the items bought yesterday I have come to the location of my first quest.

Our current location is in front of Lily’s home.

“It doesn’t feel like an adventure.”

It can’t be helped because the herbs I need grow in the Fairy Garden.

I left the hut in the early morning, went to village, accepted the quest, and returned back. Truly a splendid double effort it is.

Well, I decided to take the quest knowing I had to take the trip. Alright then, lets go and collect the rixei grass.

“Yeah!”

The one who responded to my voice is of course my reliable buddy Lily.

For her to accompany with me on this quest, I completed her adventurer registration.

I thought of doing this while talking to her yesterday, well, let’s put this talk aside.

And thus the rookie adventurer team of a human and a fairy pushed their way into the the Fairy Garden!

A few hours ago, I came to Irz village wasting two hours to accept a quest.

There is a reason I decided to accept the collection quest to “Harvest Rixei Grass” used to make potions.

The plant is also used by Lily to make her effective medicine, so getting paid to collect the raw material and also collect the raw material for the medicine was killing two birds with one stone.

It’s different from the other quests because Lily and I can handle it easily on our own, and the Fairy Garden is also close to home.

I thought of this as an opportunity to become familiar with the geography of Fairy Garden, which also happens to be my neighborhood, and as for the quest to harvest the medicinal plant, we can easily look while walking.

“Where does the Rixei grass grow?”

“Umm....., over there!”

I leave guiding us completely in Lily’s hands.

Well, it is good to have someone who knows the place, but it feels weird that I was doing nothing, just accompanying Lily.....If a monster appears I will fight it.

I walked following the steps of the fairy in a forest with various green trees, through which the sunlight shined on the ground..... it feels like a very much fantastical situation.

The forest has a relaxing effect, and it also makes the mood peaceful.

“At this rate, it feels like this quest will turn into a pleasant hiking trip.”

“There is something.....”

The mood that makes me feel like singing is blown away in an instant due to a suspicious presence.

Lily also seems to have noticed and her catches her breath.

However holding your breath is not going to stop you from being easily discovered with such a shining body.

There are various suspicious presences in our surroundings. I try to look out from the bushes and there was a monster.

"I have seen that dinosaur somewhere."

In front of my eyes was a small dinosaur with sharp claws and was walking on two legs.

I say small, but it is taller than a person. It was obvious by looking at its heinous fangs which can bite a person's head like a fruit, that it is a carnivore.

It's appearance is just like a deinonychus I once saw in a book as a child. [TL: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deinonychus>]

"It's a dagger raptor."

"That's what it's called?"

"Yeah."

I remember seeing that name in the monster subjugation list at the guild. I see.....so it's this fellow.

If I am not mistaken it has the strength of rank 1, the same as a goblin. But individually, this guys strength is overwhelmingly superior.

Even within the same rank the difference in strength can be quite a lot.

The raptors in this world have dinosaur-istic names, have long claws and sharp fangs that remind me of knives and daggers. From what I see it looks like a dinosaur from my imagination.

The single dagger raptor has not sensed us yet, and restlessly moves his head right and left.

At first glance it appears full of openings...

"He's inviting us."

"Yup."

I have a body that fought desperately through many mobility experiments. Though I can't understand a monster's words I can understand their intentions. That experience through the hell was not just for show.

Lily has also noticed that this raptor is a decoy.

They are waiting for the moment our attention changes toward him, so the

other raptors in the surroundings can start attacking.

But now that we know that much we have no intention to keep on glaring at it.

“Lily, you shoot at him. I’ll take care of the rest.”

“Understood.”

We leap out of bushes with Lily in front.

The raptor decoy immediately turns towards us taking and takes an offensive posture, but...

“Eeiii!”

Contrary to that cute shout, Lily’s laser beam pierces through the middle of the raptor’s forehead.

The raptor dies instantly in a flash without having the time to swing its claws.

Lily’s work is only till here, now the rest is—

“My turn!”

The moment we leapt out in offensive, the raptors hiding in the surroundings start to attack at once.

Two rush at me from my each side, one from my back, it might have thought about capturing me from behind, but if I know their moves, it’s easy to exterminate them. I quickly turn around and raise the black baton in my hand.

“Buckshot.”

The magic I supplied is amplified by the baton, due to it the bullets formed have more density than normal.

Firing buckshot only takes a moment, and the black curtain of bullets intercepts four raptors at once.

If I had fired the buckshot without the use of baton, it wouldn’t have become a sure kill with one shot.

Although small, the raptors have the appearance of a dinosaur and were being protected by their hard scales and skins. They display incomparable defensive power when compared to goblins.

The bullets were higher power than normal, smashed the scales, and mercilessly drilled through the skin.

However due to using the baton I got from the magician's treasure box, officially named "Black Barista Replica" my power has doubled. The bullets fired on my both sides at the same time, driving the raptors near the verge of death and eventually killing them.

There is one left, a single raptor now in front of me as I have turned back.

During the gap when I fired the bullets, it took the shortest distance and ran up to me. It is still trying to attack me with its claws but I'm out of their range.

"Pierce 'Cursed Hatchet "Decapitation"' ."

The black hatchet comes out from my shadow in an instant. I take it in my hands and dash out forward to finish the raptor.

Though a raptor has hard solid scales and skin, in front of this cursed hatchet, it gets split in two halves without any resistance.

The body of the raptor falls on the ground with a thud.

"Nh, the rest retreated, huh?"

When they saw their six friends go down in an instant, they concluded that they were no match for me and I felt the surrounding presences of raptors fade rapidly.

It won't be a problem to fight them, but I don't like to take the initiative and I won't pursue them.

In the first place our purpose for coming here was to harvest the medicinal herbs. If I fight with the monsters, there would be no end.

"Now then, we have already repelled them successfully, shall we move forward? Ah wait, let's take back the proof of killing them."

I don't remember how much reward is given for a single raptor, but it might be able to reward me with gold.

The report of a suppression can be proved by taking a part of that particular monster as an identifier.

For a goblin the ears are popular and for the raptors it is the claws and fangs.

For proof you require a symmetrical pair of the large left and right claws or fangs.

I chose to collect the claws because they would be faster to cut off with the cursed hatchet.

Chapter 28 – Curse, Replica and Multipurpose Knife

A long, long time ago, a beautiful girl used to live in a small remote village.

The girl wasn't just beautiful, but also smart, knowledgeable in sciences, and also had talent in swordplay. And yet, she had a calm and gentle personality. Being the single daughter of the village head, she was loved by all. She was truly the very picture of an ideal girl.

The girl herself was satisfied with her life till now and held no dissatisfaction towards her betrothal with the strongest man in the village.

But, on the day the village was visited by a certain magic warrior, her fate had started to go out of order.

The youth had come to exterminate a strong monster that had started appearing near the village. The youth was just a newbie as a magic warrior but was filled with young enthusiasm and a sense of justice. That is why he took this request, which others felt was too dangerous as compared to the reward, as a mission for himself.

And thus the youth, along with the soldiers of the village, entered the mountains to exterminate the monster.

But this monster wasn't just strong but also cunning as well. And it commanded a swarm of small monsters and led a surprise attack on the youth and the soldiers.

Due to the surprise attack, the soldiers were scattered, and the small monsters obstructed the youth's chanting and made him unable to attack. He was somehow able to barely make it back to the village alive. He who returned with serious injuries was treated by the girl who had learnt about medicinal sciences. But, her heart was in a pitiful condition, the same as every other villager.

His wounds had healed but he had already lost the faith of the villagers.

But the youth did not give up.

The youth's abilities were weak but the sense of justice he held in his heart was the same as the magic warriors that appeared in fairy tales. It wouldn't break with just one loss.

Even though he received no help from the villagers, he once again left to face the monster and entered the mountain alone.

Of course, unable to fight against the strong monster that led a big swarm of monsters, he once again returned wounded. The girl once again healed the youth and the villagers once again scorned him.

But still, not giving up on defeating the monster and saving the village, he once again entered the mountain.

Lose again, healed by the girl again, challenge the monster again. This same cycle was repeated countless times.

The youth started getting stronger gradually with every battle and the number of small monsters was slowly yet steadily cutting down.

But still, the main boss remained undamaged and from the point of view of the villagers he was getting no success and their faith in him was yet to be restored. But the girl who healed him every time he returned injured started to get a better opinion of this magic warrior who was unable to give up.

Looking at that serious and earnest figure of the youth all the time, it did not take long for her feelings to grow deeper.

"Thank you as usual."

Thanking the girl who had healed him, he was about to yet again go and fight the monster, at that moment,

"Can you please take me as well?"

Swinging the big hatchet with one hand, the girl asked the youth.

Naturally, the boy refused.

But, the girl was obstinate in following him.

I want to help you who has been fighting for this village. I also want to fight for saving this village. I have confidence in my skills with the sword. I brought the

hatchet and not the sword so the village head will not find out.—etc etc. The girl kept on objecting the youth's words of refusal.

"You will take me as well, right?"

At last the youth yielded to the girl's strong enthusiasm. But, the girl was simply attracted to the youth and in actuality, she just wanted to help him in any way possible. The village was simply an afterthought.

Or maybe, the girl had become weird due to falling in love for the first time.

"Yes! This time the result was much better!"(youth)

Due to the girl joining, the fighting potential was greatly increased.

To release strong magic, chanting was necessary, so a swordsman or a soldier was necessary to protect the caster during that time.

After getting stronger due to the countless battles with the monsters alone, with the addition of just one swordsman, it was natural that he was able to display strength multiple times than usual.

Also, the girl was able to protect the youth perfectly while he was chanting.

Even though it was big, it was still a mere hatchet after all, yet she was able to slice the small monsters in a single slash. Her skills were definitely above those soldiers in the village.

The two of them, after that, entered the mountain together and clearly started driving the monsters into a corner.

"Today definitely, I'll end this—“

In the last battle, the swarm of monsters was almost annihilated, and even the boss monster was injured.

With his words, the youth made a firm resolution and together with the girl headed towards the last battle.

"I, I did it—“

After fighting for the whole day, the youth and the girl finally defeated the monster. The youth, after a long struggle, was happy to have finally saved the village. But the girl was happy only due to the fact that the youth was happy.

By this time, the girl had become unable to think of anything else other than the youth to the extent where everything else seemed worthless. She was harbouring a twisted love in her heart.

Fighting with the youth together, without telling the villagers, it was the happiest moment for the girl in her whole life.

Returning to the village together, the youth let the villagers know that the monster had finally been defeated.

In the centre of the village with the village head, soldiers and others, the youth lifted and showed the head of the monster, and revealed that their fight like a heroic tale.

With a great applause, the villagers apologised to the youth for their impoliteness up till now and the village head gave his daughter's hand to the youth who had accomplished such a great feat—or so the girl stupidly thought by herself.

"I see, since you have defeated the monster we shall reward you. But it is unforgivable that you involved my daughter in such danger. I ask you to leave this village at once." (Village head)

For a second, the girl was unable to understand her father's words.

From the point of view of the villagers, the youth was scorned beyond any recovery, and even if he finally defeated the monster and brought peace to the village, it was [too late now], or so they complained.

Even the village head felt that giving the reward was an extraordinary treatment towards the youth. And above all, not just the village head but even the villagers found it unforgivable that the youth involved their precious girl in such danger.

"No way—"

Why? Was what the girl was about to speak, but she was intelligent and soon realized the mind of the villagers. At the end, the girl just didn't want to believe it.

But the seeing the youth bowing deeply and apologising,

“Thank you up till now. Farewell”(youth)

And the moment these sad words reached her ears, the girl’s world took a total turn. The village who was supposed to bless him and her, her village where she grew up, had hurt the youth’s heart. They were an unforgivable enemy worse than monsters.

“I will not forgive—“(girl)

Firstly, she severed the head of her father. Then she split open the belly of the man who was supposed to be her fiancée and was speaking some useless things. At the end, each and every villager had the appearance of a ‘monster’ in her eyes.

“I will never forgive you!!!”

The big hatchet that had been enhanced by the youth’s magic and had cut through countless monsters; had now become slightly covered in magical energy and showed strength far above a normal sword.

Using the now cursed hatchet, there was no one in the village who could stop the girl who was cutting everyone with a violent passion.

The girl slashed everyone that entered her view.

At the end all that was left was, the youth who had fallen and had become unable to move in front of the abrupt tragedy and the girl who was smiling while drenched in blood.

“Wh, Why did you.....”(youth)

Sitting on the ground, clenching his favourite staff, he asked the girl with a shivering voice.

“Why? Isn’t it obvious—“(girl)

The girl answered with a mesmerizing and charming smile.

“Because I love you, that’s why.”

And thus, the big hatchet filled with hate and love was born.

For the girl, the world to protect consisted of only the youth and herself and everything else was the enemy. Whether it be human or monster, there was no

distinction. Thus it held the curse of attacking everything indiscriminately.

“—this is the super dangerous story behind this big hatchet.”

The cursed weapon I got from those goblins. The appraisal result had come at the item shop, and I came to know about this overly blood-reeking old story of this different world which would have been better if I didn't know. Or rather, does an appraisal reveal the whole story behind how the weapon was born as well ?.....Magic really is amazing. By the way, its official name is [Cursed Hatchet – Tsujigiri (lit. intersecting beheading)]. If you let the blade absorb blood and enhance it further, it will change its name as well as its shape.

Seriously, it's a dangerous level up system. At least it could have been something softer like exp points, but instead it's -let the blade absorb blood.....

“And the black baton here is a replica version of a legendary weapon with hidden magic known as Black Barrister.”

The original is said to be able to fire an arrow made of black magic that could pierce through even castle walls. Though I don't know what it actually was like, but it should be similar to how I fire my magic bullets since I am able to bring out much more strength when using Rifle or Buckshot with this baton. SO this item must be compatible with me.

“The knife is called [Efreet's Thumb], it is meant to use fire type magic it seems.”

The item inside the treasure box along with the baton was knife with fire magic. Well that sounds good but the only type of fire magic I can use is.....

“umm, spewing small fire and putting up a flame barrier that can ward off small insects, and that's it.”

Even though I called it fire magic, it's just a replacement for a lighter or a bug-repellent.

Well it's practical but it still is a bit sad.

“Also, there is also a cursed weapon that I bought at the item shop, but, yeah, it's quite difficult to use in an actual battle.”

It would have been great if it was something straight like a sword but instead it's a [Needle]. I wonder if it can even be called a weapon.

Well, it was cheap so I ended up buying it in the end....

"nee,nee, Kurono."(Lily)

"Hm?"(kurono)

"What happened to the youth and the girl after that?"

Looks like Lily found that cruel tale interesting.

"Hm Let's see--the two of them lived together happily ever after."

After that, we were not attacked by any other monsters like that Dagger Raptor and safely reached the place where the Rixei grass grew.

"ooh, looks like a lot of it is growing. We should be easily able to fill the bags."

Rixei grass was so plain looking that you wouldn't even realize that it was there if I didn't particularly know about it.

The only characteristic was probably the jagged leaves like dandelions but other than that it was similar to weeds.

But, it cannot grow in any place other than Fairy Garden since it needed an environment with dense magical energy to grow.

Not just people or monsters but to think that magical energy affected even plants, for someone modern like me, it was very difficult to understand.

"Can this really be made into a medicine?"(kurono)

"It's not meant to be used directly though."(Lily)

"yeah, Nyarko-san also said something like that. Although I thought that the grass itself might also recover something like 10 HP."

"Echpii?"

I explained the concept of HP to Lily. Although it's called a medicinal plant, according to Nyarko-san, it won't show any effect until you properly boil it and process it into a proper medicine.

As Lily said, Rixei grass has no effect on the body if used directly. Even without

studying about medicine professionally, it seems it is a widely known fact among even the rural people. But it seems there are younger people that think that any ingredients of the potion will have the same effect as well.

I was clearly in the latter category. I'm embarrassed.

"I'll learn from here onwards, so it's fine."

I cut the Rixei grass with the Efreet's knife from the roots. Obviously I don't release fire. What would I do if I caused a forest fire?

"To combine a knife and a lighter, this is basically like a multipurpose Swiss-knife."

I can't really feel the value of the fire magic, but it's still useful so I'll leave it at that.

"Now that I think about it, how is Lily removing the grass?"

Even I who has a magically reinforced body can do it faster since I have a knife. Lily using bare hands would definitely be inefficient, and she doesn't wear clothes so I'm pretty sure she doesn't have a sickle or a knife as well.

Curious, I looked towards Lily who looked like a kindergartener working very hard. The moment Lily held the roots of the grass in her hand, small lights flashed near her hand and the grass is completely separated and then Lily throws the grass inside the bag.

"Using laser to burn it off.....she is a scary child."

It was thanks to magic that she was able to do it so well. I should also work to find more applications for my magic!

Looking at Lily's use of magic I resolved to raise my skill as a magician as well.

By the way, looking at the bag where Lily was putting all her grass and then looking at the [Shadow Space] made by me, I felt depressed again. I thought my space magic was unique.....

After this, we cleared the quest without any trouble.

Since we got exactly three bags, we received one set of Rixei grass extract 1000mg potion from the owner of the item shop.

But there is barely any danger in rank 1 quests so I don't really have any timing to try this potion. Well I'll keep it but doesn't this thing have any expiry date?

Chapter 29 – Return to Ordinary Life

A month had quickly passed after meeting Lily.

Even in this world the terms like a week, a month, and a year, is correct. Because even though the naming is different, this world also follows the same solar calendar as earth.

I met Lily during the first week of the [month of Ryokufuu (lit. Early-summer breeze)] which would correspond to April.

Right now it's May or [month of Enrai (lit. distant thunder)]. The second week will start from tomorrow.

Even in this calendar, the month of February [month of Hyoushou (lit. ice crystals)] is made up of 28 days and has 29 days in every 4 years.

Thanks to this, I was quickly able to learn the calendar. The day is also of the same length i.e around 24 hrs. Unfortunately, I don't have a watch so I can't be sure though.

Also, I learnt about the surroundings of the village as well. The village of Irz and other surrounding villages are agricultural villages with wheat production as the focus.

But in this world, a danger known as monsters exists so even the smallest of the villages have a pretty big population and they also have a wooden fence as a bare minimum defence.

So, people aren't spread all over the place in small groups. And thus the various villages are clearly marked and known even though it is like the middle ages here.

I also saw a rough map of the surrounding area at the village head's home so I now roughly know the locations of the neighbouring Kuar village, the forest of fairies, Kuar caves, Media ruins, and other mountains and rivers in the area.

The surroundings of the Irz village are located in a country that was recently raised by Gavinar of the dragon tribe. The capital Daidalos, that was also taken

as the country name as well, is the territory where the dragon king resides.

Gavinar is apparently a young one even among the dragon tribe but holding strength and high ambitions, he became the king himself and built a country.

Aah, by the way, the Pandora continent is currently under attack by humans.

I did hear things like pioneering and colonisation at the port town, but it was true apparently. Also, the place where the facility was located is known as the Arc continent.

In my world, it's already recorded in history as to how those who crossed seas conquered the various countries. In Africa and India, the natives were subjected to slavery and ruled and were allowed to trade with their home country only.

In South America, the countries that had ruled from a long time like Inca and Aztecs were both destroyed and the people faced annihilation.

Then, will this Pandora continent also head towards slavery or annihilation some day? Well, it doesn't seem that way.

The colonisers in my world were able to do this because they held overwhelming difference in power. A simple logic even a child can understand, *i.e.* the strong shall rule the weak.

But the elves, dwarves, goblins, and other beastmen races possess strength enough to repel the invaders. In this magical world, guns are not the ultimate weapon; even a small dagger raptor could easily face gunfire. Of course, considering the weapons I saw in the facility, it seems guns haven't been even invented here.

Incidentally, during this one month, I have understood how much strength a normal human in this world possesses.

When I was escaping, I could kill those masked men and those in light armour in a single attack not because they were weak, but because that is the average strength of a normal human.

I don't think they can create an army of 10,000 or 100,000 of people with strength like that of Sariel.

I guess Sariel really was an exception. The humans in this world are basically

similar to the ones in my world.

Although they may have magical energy, and army of humans does not have any advantage over a group of monsters. In fact, in individual strength, humans will lose.

And if they have Sariel, then there should be someone with the same level of strength on this side as well. An example would be the dragon king Gavinar who governs Daidalos.

The landing of the people from the Arc continent was unfortunately, no I should say fortunately, in front of Daidalos. As such, they had to face the fearsome army of Daidalos led by the dragon king. Due to this, they have been unable to continue their conquest further inside the Pandora continent.

The Daidalos army has currently completely trapped the people of the Arc continent and are threatening them to return back in the name of negotiating.

All this was heard from the village head, but considering what I had heard from the conversation in the port town, it's probably true that the conquest of Pandora continent is not going well.

It seems, I was pointlessly worried that I'll be dragged into a war. I'll be able to continue my peaceful life as adventurer here.

Once again, another normal day of my life in the different world began.

"Ah, Vats-san. Good Morning."(kurono)

"Yo, good morning. Oh? Lily-san is not together with you today? That's rare."(Vats)

"She is going stay in the house and make medicines. I don't have anything to help there either."

"Is that so? She is usually together with you all the time so you must be lonely. But, I see, the day of selling medicines is coming closer."

"This time she'll be making more than usual so please come and get some. Though we'll charge for it."

"Ahhahha you're becoming more like a merchant."

“Well our livelihood depends on it after all.”

“Aren’t you earning as an adventurer as well? I heard you were quite talented too.”

“No way, it’s just that my black magic is rare.”

“As long as you can exterminate monsters, anything’s fine. You’re going to the guild again today right? Work hard!”

“Yes, see you then.”

Greeting Vats-san early morning everyday while going to the village had also become something like a habit.

Even though I was surprised seeing a goblin like him at first.....it's amazing how you can get used to things. The figure of Vats-san working in field along with his wife and children really looks just like a group of monsters from afar, but still they are splendid members of the Irz village.

“Grint-san, good morning.”

“Morning, huh, Lily-san is—“

I’m being asked that by everyone, well I certainly am usually seen with Lily. Explaining shortly, I go through the gate as usual.

“Oh right, many people have noticed Wind wolfs, so it looks like a pack of them has appeared.”

Wind wolfs are monsters like wolves that can use wind magic. They are the lowest rank 1 monsters that hunt in packs similar to dagger raptors but for the villagers they possess enough danger.

“I see. Then I’ll exterminate them if I see them.”(kurono)

“Yeah, I’ll leave it to you.”(Grint)

Listening to the movement of monsters has also become a part of my life.

Grint-san is the leader of the vigilante corps of the village so it has become his duty to also be the gatekeeper as well.

Still, he is well aware of the information and news regarding the area from talking with other villagers; especially regarding monsters.

Although humans have been invading, the only direct danger to the village is from the monsters only.

“Good morning. What book are you going to look for today?”(shione)

Coming to the village head’s house for reading books has also become my daily routine.

Shione-san always receives me who keeps hanging in her library everyday pleasantly. No, seriously, thank you for giving me tea and stuff everyday.....

“Is there any book related to transfer or summoning magic or any info about ruins with ritual equipments of the same type?”(kurono)

“Though there are no grimoires, let’s see, there should be logs and records of adventurers who have gone into historic ruin type dungeons.”

“Then that please.”

I have obviously not given up returning to my own world.

But, I have no idea what I should do about it, so I can only research about summoning magic written in the books.

“Books specialising in magic or dungeons can only be found in the Daidalos library, I think.”(shione)

“So it really is like that. I’ll try travelling there someday.”(kurono)

Well its fine, no need to be impatient, I’ll solve this problem slowly.

Chapter 30 – Adventurer Party

Spend the morning reading at the village head's house, eat lunch at the guild in the afternoon, and then look for quests; is what my schedule on days I don't have any quest looks like.

"And then senpai said 'you do the rest'! And left all the work to me! Isn't it cruel!"(Nyarko)

"I see, it's certainly cruel. So Nyarko can you please let me eat in peace?"(Kurono)

"Listen to me properly Kurono-san!!"

I think I have gotten quite close to this Guild's newbie employee Nyanko (T/N: kitty cat), no wait, Nyarko.

Even I have started calling her without any honorific. Nyarko uses polite speech as default since she is an employee but now she talks about work less and more idle talk. By the way, complaints are also included in idle talks.

As usual I am just a listener; once again she was barging my meal with her machine gun talk. How should I say this, don't you have some work?

"I'll be eating this, delicious!"(Nyarko)

"ah, oi!? Don't eat so much!"(kurono)

Two pieces of meat disappeared from my plate and in her mouth.

"It's fine, one or two bites .."

"Your one bite is too big! Look, the proportion of bread with the dish has been completely destroyed!"

"How rude.. You talk as if I eat too much—“

"Stop idling around, Nyarko!"(pine)

And with an angry shout, the one who was the subject of Nyarko's complaints, Pine-san appeared while raising her fists.

"Ouch!? Senpai you are so cruel-- I was only trying to help a serious

adventurer like Kurono-san who wanted to hear about jobs even during meals —“(nyarko)

“No, this was all one-sided from you.”(kurono)

“Wait Kurono-san!? You betrayed me!?”

“I don’t remember being your ally though?”

“Well then Kurono-san, I’ll have this girl return to troublesome filing of documents, so call me if you want to take on a quest.”(Pine)

“Got it. Bye Nyarko, work hard.”(kurono)

“gurono-zaaann!! You’re heartlezz—!! (Nyarko)

With a pitiful cry resounding in the lobby, Pine-san dragged Nyarko away by her weakness that was her tail.

With this, my peaceful lunchtime returned again.

In the quiet lobby, I peacefully drank tea—

“Oi, you’re Kurono right?”

Suddenly, some random guy came and sat on the chair in front of me where Nyarko was sitting till now. Just when I thought I could finally eat calmly.....

“Yes, I am Kurono but—”

The person who sat in front of me was also a cat-human (werecat) like Nyarko.

Wearing light armour and a sword, he was clearly an adventurer. Behind him stood 3 people who were probably members of his party.

The werecat in front of me was a swordsman, a lizardman who had a spear, a harpy with a bow and a lamia with a long staff.

I could easily guess their races from their different bodies.

The werecat, similar to Nyarko, also had human-like hair on his head and also walked on two legs.

Lizardmen possessed more of their animal traits, so they had no hair and gave off a monster like feel.

Harpies have an upper body of a human and lower body of a bird. And the

most special feature was that both their arms were wings but they still possessed hands as well.

Lamias have the upper body of a human and lower body of a snake. If not for the latter, they looked pretty much like normal humans. But, the long and narrow pupils and the tongue split at the end that appeared now and then gave off a more snake-like feeling.

I have never conversed with the people of this diverse party but, I have seen them a lot of times in the guild. I think there name was.....

“Rank 2 adventurer Party [Irz Blader] needs something from me?”(Kurono)

“Oh, so you know about us? Looks like we’ve become a bit famous.”(lamia)

“Stupid, don’t say useless things Aten!”(catguy)

The cat swordsman suddenly shouted at the lamia magic warrior.

“So, what business do you have with me?”(kurono)

It looked like they’ll start getting noisy among themselves, so I quickly asked their purpose.

“You, don’t hit on Nyarko-san while she is working! You’re bothering her!”(catguy)

“.....?”

For a second, I couldn’t understand what the hell he was talking about.

“That was Nyarko-san—“(kurono)

“Don’t give excuses-nya!!”(catguy)

Did he just shout with a ‘nyaa’ at me?

“It’s not an excuse. Besides saying that I was hitting on her is just groundless ——“(kurono)

“Agh irritating. Stop talking in such a roundabout manner! Adventurers aren’t guys that talk in such a refined manner anyway!”

I was again faced with an amazing complaint.

But if he is saying to stop talking politely then fine

"Sure, this suits me better anyway. You may know my name, but I don't know yours so how about you start with introducing yourselves first?"

Trying to act cool I might have been a bit too rude but I can't treat adventurers similar to normal people. It's necessary to show some attitude to not be underestimated by the other party.

"....."(catguy)

"I am Aten, a fellow magic warrior. Nice to meet you." (lamia/aten)

Ignoring the cat swordsman's serious silence, the lamia girl quickly introduced herself.

"Aten!? Again you are doing things by yourself—“(catguy)

"It's fine leader. At least tell your name. Rude guys aren't popular." (Aten)

"guh..."

"I am Harry."

"My name is Claydor."

After her, the Harpy and lizardman also named themselves respectively.

".....I am Nino, leader of Irz Blader."(catguy)

"Nice to meet you as well, you already know but I'm Kurono, a black magician who is also a new adventurer."

A weird atmosphere hanged in the air.

I got their names, but I still don't understand what they need from me.

"So, what were you saying about Nyarko?"(kurono)

"That's right! You're acting too familiar with her! And don't call her without any honorific!!"

"If I had to say, it was Nyarko who is acting over familiar."

"Like I said, stop making excuses—"

"What is it? Do like Nyarko or what?"

"Wha.....Why do you know that!?"

Ah, shit, I just said that randomly. Didn't think it was actually correct. So that's why he has been shouting Nyarko this and Nyarko that.....

Even the other members are making a 'so it was obvious' expression.

"Ah, well,.....sorry."(kurono)

"Shut up!"

Having said that, he fell flat on the table.

"Anyway, I like human women so I have no intention to make a pass at Nyarko. You can be relieved."(kurono)

"I knew it. We also said that a lot of times but this idiot just didn't listen to us."(Aten)

"Stop. Don't say anymore than that."

Nino who was still lying without any energy was somehow able to object Aten who had a teasing sadistic smile.

"Well leaving Nino aside, Kurono-san, could you cooperate with us?"

"Meaning? Aah, sit down first. No need to keep on standing."(Kurono)

Harry asked with a serious face. So this was the main topic.

Anyway, I got to sit together with another adventurer party for the first time.

"You do know about the luggage carrying quest we have given out, right?"

"Aah, right, there was that quest as well. You want me to take that quest?"

"Basically, yes."

"neee please Kurono～please carry our luggage～"(Aten)

"Aten, I'm trying to seriously trying to negotiate here. What's with your asking style—"(harry)

"Alright."(kurono)

"Eh?"

"I was also thinking of teaming up with another party. Also, I wanted to see how an actual party functions as well."

"I see. Then please, we look forward to it."

"Same here."

I firmly shake hands with Harry. With this the contract is sealed.

"Wait, Kurono's a human. Wouldn't a beastman or an orc be a better choice?"(nino)

Finally revived, Nino interjected after all this time, but his logic wasn't wrong.

No matter how much of a good body build I had, as a human my physical power would be lacking in comparison to other races. Of course, under the effect of the experiments, I could display beast-like strength even without magic but only Lily is aware of that.

"You don't have to worry about that leader. Kurono-san can use spatial magic." (harry)

"You're well aware. Did you hear it from old man Kische?"(kurono)

"Yes."

As expected, after all I used it frequently only in the item shop. Calling him old man, I think I have gotten quite unreserved with him now.

But still, that old man is definitely a sly fox, as expected of a merchant.

I'll try selling him something like a suspicious item one day.

"Really?"(Nino)

Nino looked at me doubtfully. Does this guy hate me?

Maybe he still thinks I am a rival in love. Beastmen, whether for good or bad, have usually simple and straightforward personalities.

"Look at my feet—"(kurono)

At times like these, it's best to show directly.

From near my feet, Shadow space opened, and I randomly brought out a potion.

""ooh!""

The shadow swayed like water and the bottle of potion came out.

“I saw spatial magic for the first time～”(Aten)

Maybe because she was also a magic warrior, Aten’s eyes were shining with curiosity and interest.

“How much can it hold?

Harry coolly questioned.

“Weight is irrelevant, as for size—enough to hold all of 5 you inside.”(kurono)

“That’s amazing!”

“Convenient, right?”

Fufun, I boast a little.

Probably because she could also use it Lily wasn’t that surprised. These reactions really make me happy.

“With this even leader can’t complain right?”

“I wasn’t really complaining in the first place, if he can do it then it’s fine.”(nino)

“Well then, I’ll go and take the quest then.”(kurono)

“Yes sure. We will wait here so we’ll explain the details afterwards.”

“Got it.”

Closing the shadow space, I left my seat and went towards the reception where Pine-san was.

Chapter 31 – Irz Blader and Luggage Carrying

(1)

Quest rank 2: Dortoth hunting

Reward: 3-5 gold per head

Deadline: 1 month from the date of acceptance of quest

Client: Daidalos trader guild

Details: We request you to hunt Dortoths which are used for their fur and meat. We also deal and trade with ingredients all the year round so please hunt freely as much as you can.

“ooh, so this is the true identity of that mysterious meat.....”(kurono)
(T/N:reference to Ch 21)

That was the first thing that came in my mind regarding our quest.

Well, correctly speaking, my quest is to be a luggage carrier for Irz Blader and hunting for Dortoths is the quest for Irz Blader.

By the way, when monsters are killed for fur or meat, they call it ‘hunting’ and not ‘subjugation/extermination’.

Defeating the monster is not the priority; at the very least they also have to peel off the useable materials from the monster and at times they are even required to catch them alive or catch without wounding them etc., it can be very difficult at times.

The difficulty of hunting quests depends more on the details of the quest and less on the monster that has to be hunted.

By the way, the quests where the main requirement is to kill a monster are called as subjugation quests.

“Listen Kurono, although our objective is hunting Dortoths, we have been asked to hunt freely so we’ll also hunt Windwolfs that have been increasing lately. We are party that focuses on monster subjugation quests after all, since

safety of the village was actually our original goal. But to function as an adventurer, money is required. So along with the required material we will also need to gain money from defeating monsters as freelancing as well.”

This was the full explanation Nino had given me yesterday afternoon.

“We’ll leave the village at dawn tomorrow! That’s why stay at the village tonight!”

I was also suddenly told this.

Although I feel bad for Lily, this is also part of my work so I decided to send her a letter that I won’t be returning for around a week. Thank god the postal system exists even in the different world. Of course it isn’t at a level where they could deliver mails anywhere in the country at the same rate and with certainty, but there shouldn’t be a problem if it is to Lily’s house or the neighbouring village.

Aah, I am going to be lonely not being able to see Lily’s face for one whole week. I started feeling sentimental. Looks like I have become quite attached to her. I wonder if it’s the same for Lily.

No use thinking about it. I’ll bring lots of souvenirs while coming back. Deciding that, I slept in the lodge provided by the guild.

The dortoths live in a mountain region known as Gallahad. It was located west of the Fairy Garden, past the cave where the goblins had lived.

Even arriving there would take at least the whole day. Though, we might make it a bit faster since I put their entire luggage in shadow space.

Defeating the small monsters around the village and fairy garden is also one of the objectives but, before that the completion of quest had more priority. So we decided to directly go there first.

Since we didn’t enter the Fairy garden, our journey had rarely been interrupted by monsters.

It felt a bit like hiking. We talked to each other about ourselves.

For example, Harry was Pine-san’s younger brother and Claydor was Grint-san’s son.

Pine-san’s face does look similar to Harry. Although I can’t really find

differences in the faces of lizardmen, Claydor also has blue scales like Grint-san. His spearmanship was also similar to his father.

After talking for some time, I more or less understood their personalities as well.

The leader Nino is a straightforward and frank type of person. But he's also the most talented among them and has also learnt [martial arts].

[Martial Arts] is a technique used by swordsmen and warriors who cannot use magic, to invoke magical energy inside their body to bring out special effects and abilities. It is something like a special move.

During the maneuvering experiments, I was hit by a thin sword that struck with an impossibly heavy blow, cut by a sword clad in flames, pierced by a spear clad in lightning, and experienced many other such martial arts.

Although both magic and martial arts use magical energy, they are differentiated clearly since they follow different set of rules.

Well regardless of what the actual theory behind it was, it is still an amazing skill that can display attack power or defensive power similar to Magic.

To have learnt multiple arts meant that you were a veteran in using weapons and fighting; on a completely different level from beginners.

But seeing him teased by Aten and remonstrated by Harry, I can't really call it amazing.....well looks like he is properly trusted by his comrades so it's OK.

Harry was, I had already guessed by his tone and atmosphere, the intellectual member of the party. He uses ' –san' honorific for everyone except the party members. Everything except battle has been left on to him.

He is the rearguard with a bow but since he is also meant to protect the magic user Aten, he is also able to fight with a short sword.

Claydor is a silent person, and usually doesn't participate in the conversation. Yeah, there are guys like him even in a different world. I had a friend like him so I somehow understood. In battle, he is the vanguard along with Nino. Possessing high defensive abilities due to his hard skin and scales, in emergencies, he can even protect his comrades with his body directly.

Aten is the lone woman in the group. But, it seems that people are only attracted to those of their own race, so even if it was someone as beautiful as her, only a lamia would be attracted to her. It seems there is no danger of internal disputes due to a love affair.

A magic user like her is the weakest on her own but with the support of the vanguards she can release wide ranged intermediate level attack magic. She is the attack pillar of the party.

She can also use healing magic somewhat, but she is not expert enough to use it while in battle. So recovery of the party relies on items.

Like this I basically got their personal data.

Rest I'll understand when I'll see them in actual battle.

"So what about Kurono?"

"What do you mean?"(kurono)

Aten suddenly asked about me.

"What magic you use, fighting style, things like that? We talked about ourselves but we haven't heard anything about you."(Aten)

"That's right. If you became an adventurer then you should have confidence in your skills right?"(Harry)

"Oh, well I have never compared myself with other adventurers so I can't really say but at least I'm not stronger at magic than Lily. I can't really chant and only depend on single action and defensive shield magic."

Single action refers to magic like [Rifle] or [buckshot].

Solidifying your own magical energy and shooting it out without utilising any other spell or technique. It is fired after a single process, thus it's called single action.

Which reminds me, my shield is also made in the same way so that will also come under single action.

Anyway, it's the basic among the basics for a magic user. If you can't use single action you cannot be called a magician.

"Eeh since you knew spatial magic, I was sure that you would know some amazing magic. Or rather, it's amazing you decided to become an adventurer even though you could only use single action and shield."(Aten)

Am I being looked at with a pitiful gaze right now?

It's true that I can't utilise complex chants and effects but I can still shoot bullets infinitely, small monsters won't be any trouble for me.

"Kurono-san is still rank 1 after all and won't be taking part in combat this time so there's no need to worry. He'll learn various magic from here onwards, why don't you teach him something as well Aten?"

Huh? Could it be that I'm being treated as a super beginner right now?

Well whatever. My job isn't fighting right now so there is no need to uselessly open my mouth.

"I don't know anything about black magic though?"(Aten)

"No, well, I never learned magic from an actual magic user so it would be fine if you could just teach me the basics."(kurono)

That's actually true.

Lily is also amazing at magic, but it's a type of race specific magic that can be used from the time they are born which is known as Extra.

If I had to say, it is something similar to how dragons breathe fire. Even if someone of another race wants to learn, it is impossible on the structural level.

So, I had basically no idea what was the thing known as magic that existed in this world.

Chants or rituals, they are all unknown things to me.

"Is that so? But my guidance will be strict you know?"(Aten)

"It's not like you're a high level magician that is about to take a disciple though?"(Nino)

"Shut up! I'll bite you!!" (Aten)

"Stupid!? Stop, aren't your fangs poisonous!?"

I and the other guys looked at the scene of Aten attacking Nino with a lukewarm gaze. Looking at this stupidly noisy fight, I was slightly reminded of the time I was in my previous world.

Chapter 32 – Irz Blader and Luggage Carrying (2)

It has been one month since I started my life as an adventurer. I have become accustomed to sleeping outdoors as well.

Well, my body won't get fatigued even if I went 3 days without sleeping though. And my body has become so sturdy that I can pretty much take rest just by lying down on the bare ground.

But, just because I can do so doesn't mean it's comfortable. Humans are meant to lead a healthy and cultured life.

So I learned the basic minimum things like putting a tent or methods to start a fire and other required camp skills.

Of course, I have the all purpose magic Swiss knife Efreet's thumb, so I'm pretty relaxed about things related to fire.

"What are you doing Kurono-san?"

I thrust the knife in the ground at the centre of the camp and answered Harry.

"Aah, this is an insect repellent."

"Insect repellent?—Wait, could it be that knife, is it a magic weapon!?"(harry)

"Yeah that's right.....is it really that surprising?"

Overhearing Harry's talk about a magic weapon, Aten also came.

"So nice....I also want a magic weapon!"(Aten)

It feels as if she would pick up the knife right now and take it home with her.

"I'm not giving it to you."(kurono)

I should make sure, just in case.

"What kind of item is this? You have appraised it right?"

"Yeah, it's called Efreet's thumb and—“

I explained the knife to them.

I told them that it didn't have any attack power and at most could be used to put a barrier against insects, but yet the magical weapon seems fascinating to them.

“—but, is it really that rare?”

“It's not that rare but, even the cheapest magical weapon would be at least 10 gold.”

“We don't really have that much capital with us. And a magic weapon as cheap as 10 gold would often turn out to be a cheap fake or a cursed weapon. If you go to the city, they sell a lot of them like those so be careful.”

“I see.”

It was something with such a high price? Maybe I should value it a bit more?

Sorry to have always treated you like a convenient tool, Efreet.

“But still, which dungeon did you get it from?”

“I got this from a treasure box at Lily's house.”

“So, from the magician's hut in the forest?”

The magician had contributed a lot to the Irz village and could also use lots of amazing magic, so he is still popular.

“Yeah.”

“If it was a magician's treasure box, didn't it have some seal or protection casted on it?”

“It was reinforced and also had an electric trap but I did my best and opened it.”

“As if it's that easy.”

“Maybe Kurono-san is more suited to be a thief than a magician?”

“Thief you say.....”(kurono)

“For the adventurers who venture into the dungeons, people with the thief class, who can disengage traps and open locked chests and doors are

indispensable after all."(Aten)

"People with such skills have been called thieves from a long time so even if they don't actually rob people, they are still called as thieves."(harry)

"Oh I see, so it's a normal class."

My common sense as an adventurer learnt something new again.

Also, Aten has been constantly looking at my knife with envy. She won't suddenly change into a thief class that actually commits crime/robbery right?

The place where we had set up our camp was at the foot of Gallahad mountains, a bit away from the highway. Near the highway, there was a clearing where monsters usually don't come.

Adventurers that climb the mountain range usually make a base around here. I haven't confirmed it but, there's another adventurer party's camp somewhere nearby.

It's quite a safe place but lowering your guard meant failure for an adventurer. At the very least, we need to keep watch during night time.

"n, is it Kurono?" (Claydor)

The one who is keeping watch right now is the silent lizardman, Claydor.

The bronze guild card indicating a rank 2 adventurer shone due to the campfire around his neck.

Since I am a rank 1, I had an iron plate. I wonder when will it turn into a bronze plate?

"Is it fine to stay up for so long?"

After this, Nino, Harry will change shifts by rotation.

Aten does not have any shift, not because of a stupid reason like she was a woman, but because for magic users concentration is important so it's better to avoid fatigue as much as possible.

One can swing a sword even when tired, but the danger of misfiring magic due to tiredness was of a different level.

So, night watch in Irz Blader was done by the men only.

"I thought I'll also keep guard with you but am I in the way?"(kurono)

"No, but are you sure you want to do something not asked in the quest?"(Claydor)

"I'm doing this out of my own volition, so don't worry. Well I wanted to experience something adventurer-like too."

"It's only tedious and boring though."

"Then it's better to do it together right?"

"I guess so."

It's good that I was able to talk properly. I was afraid that I might not be liked very much.

Lizardmen have literally the head of a lizard so it's difficult to read their expressions, at least it's not possible for me right now.

I was slightly worried, but after talking with him I realized that he seemed like a normal good guy.

Even if only slight, we are going together to do a dangerous job so I want to build good human relations with them, ah, I guess I'm the only human here though. Well whatever.

"—Claydol, why did you become an adventurer?"

I decided to talk with him while sitting beside the fire under the quiet night sky.

"I wanted to protect the village like dad does in the vigilante corps. But, only adventurers can experience fighting a lot of monsters."

"I see. So you want to get as strong as you can get."

"Yeah, dad was also an adventurer when he was young so I'm just imitating him though."

"No, it's pretty commendable. It's a much better reason to become an adventurer than someone who became one only to earn lots of money."

"Is that so? I thought I was an irregular as an adventurer."

"Maybe because the value system here is much different from where I came,

rather than having big dreams, I find working towards a realistic future-oriented goal more valuable and better.”(kurono)

“I see.....people think like that as well.”

“Yeah, you’re a fine guy. It’s okay to be proud and confident——”

Compared to him, my reason is – to live huh.....It’s a bit pathetic but it can’t be helped since I’m trying to survive in an unknown land after all.

“Why did you become an adventurer?—— it’s fine not to talk if you have any special circumstances.”(Claydor)

“I became one for my livelihood—-.....no, I’m searching for a type of magic. It’s a special summoning magic that can’t be done without equipment found in ancient historic ruins or temples.”

“Is Kurono’s speciality summoning magic?”

“No, I’m not searching it to master it. I need it to return to my home.”

“I had heard that you had come from a faraway country.....so it’s that far away.”

“Something like that, well, I’m interested in living here as well so I’m taking it easily.”

“I see——hm?”

Probably because he sensed something, Claydor stood up with the spear in his hand.

“What happened? I can’t sense any monster though.”(kurono)

“It’s not a monster, it’s a——monkey.”

As he swinged the spear lightly in the bushes, with a rustling sound a small shadow jumped out.

“ooh.....it really is a monkey.”

Two figures of monkeys of height same as Lily shone from the light of the campfire.

Yellow shining eyes, they had a greyish coloured body.

“Kaa!!”

Claydor gave a roar and the monkeys panicked and ran away back into the darkness.

“Those monkeys don’t attack but they steal food. If left alone, they’ll call their friends and completely take away everything. But if you threaten them once like this, they’ll recognise it as danger and won’t come closer again.”(claydor)

“I see....”(kurono)

I can sense monsters with bloodlust and humans but animals like that are difficult to sense for me.

I see, enemies that could attack were not just monsters.

Claydor had immediately sensed the approaching monkey, and I was shown the difference in experience.

“Yareyare, looks the road to a first class adventurer is going to be a long one ——“(kurono)

Chapter 33 – Rampaging Beast Dorthot (or Doltos/Dortos)

It was a pretty wide open space even though it was among the mountains.

About 10 minutes ago, as we continued cautiously, Nino who was in the vanguard was suddenly attacked by a giant green amoeba-like creature and then, around 10 more similar creatures also appeared from our surroundings.

“They’re just slimes! Deal with them as you see fit!”

Ooh, this is the famous slime monster? As I nonchalantly thought that, the members of Irz Blader took up their respective weapons and started fighting the group of slimes.

Nino slashed the slimes left and right and behind him, Claydor swung his spear to cover him.

At the moment where the slimes were about rush towards the two of them, —الجليد الباردة تجميد انتشار النار— Ice Blast!!』

Aten released the magic after completing her chant.

The slimes that were closing in on the vanguards had their liquid bodies frozen up in a matter of few seconds and finally stopped moving. Just with a slight poke from a spear or sword, the frozen slimes scattered in pieces.

All this happened in the past 10 minutes, and now we are back to present.

“It’s such stable and calm way of fighting—“(kurono)

It felt like I was watching a recorded scene of balanced RPG party taking out the representative of small fry monsters aka slimes.

Also, I was just a luggage carrier; I don’t need to take part in battle either so nobody is going to complain even if I just leisurely spectate like this.

So, as I had planned, I could observe how an actual adventurer party does battle.

Although I don't want to brag but I am well aware that I am also no amateur when it comes to battles. But that's only in the case of solo battles. I won't be able to cooperate and coordinate like them.

Even monsters attack by forming groups and teams, but as expected, it doesn't even compare to the team play showed by people with intelligence.

I understood that although individually the members of Irz Blader are only as strong as a normal level 2, as a team they can display a much greater strength.

"Alright. Looks like they ran away."

As I wondered whether slimes had the ability to understand and feel danger, the slimes ran away in all directions.

"Although it won't earn us much but, since we have a luggage carrier, might as well collect the cores—"

Nino picked up the proof of defeating slimes that was the core, at that moment,

zuzun—

"Is it an earthquake?....."

What is it? It seems I was the only one who was in doubt. Rest all were looking with serious faces towards the direction where the source might be.

"To think it would come to us. That saves us the trouble."

Nino unsheathed his sword again and lined up along with Claydor.

"Kurono, you should get away a bit."

Aten says that to me and then starts chanting with her staff.

Harry nocked 3 arrows together on his bow and stood in front of her.

Everyone was in complete battle mode.

I felt the sound and vibrations coming closer.

This situation is definitely —

"BAOOOOON!!"

With a shrill roar, a grey figure jumped out as it toppled the trees.

It was similar to the giant elephant I had seen once at the zoo but, its figure charging madly towards us looked more like a wild boar to me.

The most similar features were its long nose and the fur and tusks that looked like that of a mammoth.

But the shape of those tusks was more similar to the horns of a reindeer that spread out greatly.

This is the main target monster of the quest. The source of the mysterious meat. The rampaging beast Dortoth.

*hiyuu—*bang*!*

The first attack made on the rushing Dortoth was by Harry's arrows.

All the three arrows were fired together and stuck on the beast's head but its charge didn't slow one bit.

It approached Nino and Claydor like a 10 ton truck.

“Aten!”

—**كيكو هيروشى منع تجميد الباردة درع الجليد الصلب**—— Ice armour shield!!』

Since she had been chanting from a long time already, Aten's magic was instantly activated. The moment the Dortoth and the two of them were about to collide, a shield of ice appeared between them.

The Dortoth had no way to dodge the suddenly appearing ice wall but it didn't intend to do so either.

And it collided head-on at full speed with the ice wall.

Due to the overwhelming speed and power of the charge, the ice wall shattered apart.

But, although it destroyed the wall, its charge had been stopped and it fell down due to the shock from the impact

“Now!!”

Stepping over the broken ice wall, Nino and Claydor attacked the downed Dortoth.

Aiming for the head, they slashed it twice, thrice but they were unable to deal a fatal blow due to its stiff fur and thick skull.

With a groan, the Dortoth stood back up.

Swinging its giant tusks, it drove the two attacking its head away.

Maybe due to the magical energy inside those tusks, they were wrapped in winds and created a whirlwind.

“Uooh—”

The tusks wrapped in winds lightly grazed Nino and his body was blown away.

It tried to chase Nino who was in mid air but was blocked by Claydor's spear and Harry's covering fire.

“—toh.”

In mid air, truly like a cat Nino fixed his posture and lightly landed on the ground. He raised his sword once more and charged towards the rampaging Dortoth.

“This one is a big prey after a long time. We'll defeat it definitely!”

“Ooh!!”

Seeing the members of Irz Blader enjoying fiercely fighting the beast with an energetic shout, I felt a bit envious.

“Well done.”

After the long fight, I, the only one with energy, called out to the dead tired members.

“Yeah. I'm tired....we leave the rest to you Kurono.”

Saying that, Nino sprawled on the ground. Beside him was the giant body of the Dortoth. Nino had used a martial art and pierced the forehead which became the fatal wound. Other than that, the various wounds created by the other members were also left all over its body.

Monsters have a stronger vitality than normal animals so they have to be damaged at least this much or they won't die. If it's a big monster, then all the more so.

Although damaging the outside too much might not be a good method for hunting quests, but here only the meat is important so it's fine.

"Even if you say that, I don't know how to dissemble animals you know."(kurono)

"Then just put it all inside with Spatial Magic."(Aten)

"Don't make it sound so easy Aten. Something as big as this will just barely fit inside."

"Eh? Barely? You mean you really can store all of it!?"

"Probably, yeah."

Ooh! Everyone raised their voices in admiration and astonishment. Oi, I said probably. I might have to leave a leg or something behind.

"It's fine, it's fine! If you can, just do it already!"(Aten)

"We'll be counting on you Kurono-san. Well, normally one would dissemble it here but other monsters might be attracted to the smell of blood and come here."(harry)

"I see. If we can move it then we should do it quickly, is it?"

"Yes, please. If you want we can increase the reward too."

"If you are willing to go that far, fine, I might as well try it---Shadow Space."

Even without the additional increase in reward, I was going to do it anyway but since you said so, I might as well take it!

The shadow stretched out from me and reached the beast's body.

Then I opened the shadow space at max limit and started to take it inside slowly.

"Kuh, it's a bit of a pain when the object is very heavy and big....."

Still, I'll somehow settle it inside. Once the space is closed then weight and size don't matter anymore. I have to endure a bit more.

"It's done."(kurono)

"oooh Amazing Kurono!!"

Aten's tail slithered and entwined around my body. She might want to show some skinship but being entwined by a large snake is a bit scary.

"Guh, let me go Aten....."(kurono)

"Don't be embarrassed～"(aten)

"No, I'm actually scared."

"What!?!"

Anyway, we somehow completed the objective of the quest.

"Now then, for the completion of the quest—"

""Cheers""

In the Irz village guild, the voices of Irz Blader + a luggage carrier resounded.

5 days after leaving the village, we had returned after safely completing our quest.

We returned by the afternoon but taking the reward and completing other formalities took time and it was now evening, and we were now sitting together with sake in our hands.

I'll drink as well of course. After all, there is no law limiting minors to not drink alcohol in this world.

But, maybe due to the effect of the various body modifications (?), no matter how much I drink, I only get a bit tipsy but not more than that.

"ohh, are you drinking kuronoo～" (Aten)

Aten, whose face had already become red, slithered towards me.

"This time we were able to complete the quest easily thanks to Kurono's help so you have my thanks."(aten)

"Yes, we want to ask for your help again."(Harry)

"Yeah, you really helped a lot."(Claydor)

"Well, he worked perfectly as per his reward."(Nino)

I got a bit embarrassed on being complimented by everyone.

“Everyone, Thank You!!” (kurono)

But it's true that I'm also happy.

Even if it was a different world, being complimented for your hard work is always nice.

I felt that I was once again slightly accepted by this world.

Definitely, from hereon I will meet many more people, and deepen my bonds with them.

But, the one that came in my mind at this moment was my first friend in this different world, my partner, her small face.

“Ah, I want to meet Lily—“

Chapter 34 – Night of the Full Moon

I escaped from the banquet of the party members and made my way back.

In truth, it might have been okay to drink all night and return tomorrow (in fact, I was told to do so), but I wanted to see Lily's face by today no matter what, so it can't be helped.

It has been five days since I had sent the letter, did she miss me? I've missed her.

But this time I have used nearly half of the reward I got and bought a heap of candies and fruit for Lily.

Lily's happy face came to my mind. While being restless in the reunion after sometime, I opened the door of the hut.

“I'm home—”

After opening the door, what entered my sight was the already familiar room.

Now that I have started living here, the room is organised and gives a fresh feeling.

Interrupting those thoughts,

“Kurono!”

A voice came from a beautiful girl calling out my name.

That's right, the speaker of this voice is Lily—No wait, wasn't Lily's voice more childish?

Without having the time to think about the uneasiness, my view is blocked by a white light.

“Ugh... so bright!”

“Kuronoooo— !”

At the same time, I felt an impact on my body from something.

Somehow I stand firm and avoid falling down. I felt the soft sensation of

someone embracing my body.

What is it, for Lily to be this, isn't it too big?

However, I can't think of anyone else who can call my name and lives in this house.

"Li, Lily, is that you?"

The view that was obscured by that white flash gradually returns to normal.

And then, I supposedly see the person who is embracing me.

".....Are you Lily?"

I once again say the same words.

"Un, I'm Lily?"

While embracing me the girl answers. The naked body with a white radiance, long platinum hair and the two wings with seven colors like a prism were without a doubt Lily's traits.

However this form is fundamentally different. The little girl who has these traits was changed into a young girl with the same traits.

"Lily has become bigger!?"

In other words, it's that.

If we think of the figure of the little Lily as a human child, then the Lily in front of me has grown 10 years and looks a middle schooler.

What, just what the hell does this mean? Lily is 32 years old, during that time she was a small girl, so why the hell did she suddenly grow bigger?

During the five days I was away from the home, just what the hell happened to Lily's body!

"I was lonely Kurono, I don't want you to go somewhere alone anymore."

"Y, Yeah, sorry....."

Rather than the young Lily, I can't hide my surprise on hearing her speak in clear tone.

".....For the time being can you get off of me?"

"No."

shock The Lily that used to so obedient to my words is.....Is it the rebellious age?

"If you don't step back, I can't enter the house."

"Then, take me to bed like this."

The young Lily smoothly speaks a line that might cause various misunderstandings.

She stares at me with moist and upturned eyes, and at that moment, for the first time I look straight into young Lily's face.

"Uu—"

She's so much beautiful, it sends shiver down my spine.

It seems like I'll be sucked up in her green eyes, which eclipse the glow of an emerald.

Her long eyelashes, along with lightly shining body and hair are increasing her glow even more.

"....."

I close my eyes for a moment, and calm down my heart.

I was dangerously near to being fascinated by her charm.

In this world, the beautiful things contain the magic to captivate the hearts of a person with just that.

Just as the statue of a god contains powers, it is said that the beautiful things have the power to captivate the hearts of anyone with just seeing in it's eyes, with just its smile and by just exchanging some words.

This is called a 'Fascination Charm', it is counted as a sort of bad status.

Inside this magic filled other world, I thought the story was a fake when I first heard it. I never thought I would be able to experience it by myself.

"Lily—"

"Please~"

It can't be helped, it looks like Lily has not will to surrender.

Anyhow, right now the first priority is to learn what happened to Lily's body.

Reluctantly, I carry Lily to bed like a princess in my arms.

Even though she's turned into a young girl, she still gives a mysterious feeling when held in arms that is neither soft nor heavy.

"Ufufu, thank you Kurono."

To me who is still a virgin high school boy, the scene of a naked young girl lying on the bed is too much stimulating.

Whether or not her body is shining in white light, naked is naked. When Lily was in the little girl's form there was not much resistance, but now in the young girl's form there are various places that are bothering me.

The scene in front of me is on the level, that if it was a picture, one would keep staring at it without caring about public gazes. But the person in front of me is my most trusted partner, therefore I won't tolerate any insolence regarding her.

"Can you wear a blanket?"

"No~"

It really is the rebellious stage!?

I sit on the bed and straighten up my back, while Lily grabs my hand.

If she asks in a small child form to be spoiled, I can easily accept it, but I'm not a stoic adult who can remain calm while being clinged on by a naked young girl.

"Then at least wear this."

I take off the black robe with a straightforward official name : "Demon's Embrace 'Baphomet Embrace'" which has already become my favorite and put it on Lily.

"nfufun, It smells of Kurono."

"A, Sorry, because I've been wearing it all the time it smells—"

"It's alright like this, it settles me down."

Lily with an expression of being entranced closes her eyes. I bear with it to not

become someone to keep on looking at her silently. I decide to cut right to the point.

"Lily, what is happening with you? Before you were so small, I still find it hard to believe you're the same person."

"You're terrible Kurono, we lived together and you don't recognise me?"

She hugs my hand and pushes her body forward. On that reaction my heart beat gets faster.

Calm down me, calm down and just concentrate on the conversation.

"It's not like I don't know, but your appearance is so different, I got confused."

"Fufu, That's right. That's why I'll only tell Kurono my secret."

Lily gently strokes my cheeks with her slender fingers and grips them while bringing her face toward me.

It's a little pushy, but I don't resist and keep on staring into Lily's eyes.

A cold sweat flows down my cheek, what the hell is with this feeling of tension? Little Lily, please comeback!

"Those of the fairy tribe have a growth in power on the nights of a full moon like today. It is said that the fairy queen come to this world to play from the moon."

Wha, what is with this Maerchen (lit: fairy tale) type of back story, so is the address of fairy queen on the moon's surface full of craters, huh?

"Ufufu, I don't know if it's the truth or not, but if it's truth then maybe we can meet with fairy queen on the night of fullmoon."

"I see. just like an allegorical tradition."

"Yeah, but no matter what, it is a fact that the power of the fairy tribe increases. And it seems like it's influence is more powerful towards me, who is half human and half magic beast. That's why I can return to my original form on nights of full moon."

".....Original form?"

In that case, who is the small Lily with whom I lived.

"That is a temporary form. If I'm away from the light of the fountain, my magic and intelligence have a drastic fall and I change into the child form."

"Is that so....."

"Un, that is so. The current me retains the memory of the small me, and when I turn small I will retain the memories of this time too. But that child has low thinking capabilities so it won't understand many things."

It's hard to accept it suddenly, but the way she explains things, I can sense the intelligence in her.

Different from the usual small Lily, she feels like someone who has lived many years.

"I'm glad that Kurono came back tonight. I've thought a lot about wanting to talk to you properly. If I missed today, I would have had to wait another month."

I'm getting caught up being fascinated by the smiling Lily and can't have a proper conversation.

"Nee~ Kurono, I understand completely that you came to this world alone. You were treated badly by evil people, but still you don't give up and try to live your life. And that I treasure about you very much."

"Lily—"

At that moment, from the bottom of my heart, I was completely convinced that this girl is Lily.

I also understood that Lily comprehended the circumstances I am in and what I told her.

The first person person who understood me is without a doubt, Lily.

“—Thank you very much.”

“Same to you Kurono, thank you for staying with me.”

“I will always live with you together from now on.”

“Aa~, if Lily stays with me, I can live in this world. I won't be lonely.”

“Un! If Kurono stays with me, I also won't get lonely. But I want to talk to Kurono in this form, I have a lot to tell you and a lot to talk about.”

“Yeah, I’ll listen to everything.”

“Ufufu, I won’t let you sleep tonight♪”

And so , Lily and I start talking on the bed with each other. The things that had happened so far and the things that will occur from now on—